STARS STRIPES.



Ceremony marks start of Afghan road repair

NCAA tournament brackets. regionals capsules

TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2005

Blueprint for Bagram

No longer just a city of tents, U.S. air base in Afghanistan transformed by plan for permanent structures Page 4



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Ne ws Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Judge's slain relatives: Rambling and threatening letters from the man believed to be the killer of Judge Joan Lefkow's husband and mother prompted the Illinois Attorney General's office to investigate him six years ago, former state officials say.

Investigators went to the Chicago home of Bart Ross in the winter of 1999 and created an extensive file on him, noting his paranoia and anger at the government and judiciary, said a former investigator and the office's one-time chief of investigations.

Ross, 57, an unemployed electrician, committed suicide Wednesday in a Milwaukee suburb after a police officer pulled him over because of broken taillights on his van.

Gov. Dean's records: More than two years after he left the governor's office to make his unsuccessful run for the presidency, the fight over public access to Howard Dean's gubernatorial records is coming before the Vermont Supreme Court in Montpelier.

Monday's hearing is on the state's appeal of a ruling that 86 boxes of records Dean sealed when he left office in 2003 are instead presumed to be open.

Superior Court Judge Alan Cook ordered Dean and the state to identify each of the hundreds of thousands of documents in the boxes and say why each should be covered by executive privilege.

Al-Qaida terror plot: A northern Virginia man accused of joining al-Qaida and plotting with them to assassinate President Bush pleaded not guilty Monday in federal court to providing material support to terrorists and other charges.

An Aug. 22 trial date was scheduled for Ahmed Omar Abu Ali, 23, of Falls Church. He was indicted last month and charged with six counts that would allow a maximum prison term of 80 years.

Military Recruitment protests: Four anti-war pro-

testers accused of spilling blood at a military recruiting station in New York will go on trial in federal court in May. U.S. District Magistrate Dave Peebles set

U.S. District Magistrate Dave Peebles set a tentative trial date of May 7 before U.S. District Judge Thomas McAvoy for the four Ithaca residents. The protesters' case was turned over to

The protesters' case was turned over to federal prosecutors last summer after a Tompkins County Court jury deadlocked on a decision

At that time, District Attorney George Dentes decided to dismiss the state charges pending against the four and turn the case over to federal prosecutors.

The four demonstrators pleaded not guilty Friday in federal court, maintaining that they were upholding international law during the March 17, 2003, protest at a military recruiting office in suburban Ithaca.

World

Pakistanis' rape sentences: Pakistan's Supreme Court agreed Monday to decide the case of six men sentenced to death for raping a woman on orders from a village council, following two conflicting rulings by lower courts in the high-profile case.

The men were sentenced to death in 2002 after elders ordered the rape of Mukhtar Mai, 33, as punishment for her brother's alleged illicit affair with a woman from another family. But on March 3, the convictions of five of the men were overturned and the sixth reduced to life in prison, sparking an outcry by human rights groups both in Pakistan and abroas.

The Federal Shariat Court, the nation's highest Islamic tribunal, threw out the acquittal Friday and reinstated the death sen-



Democracy in Nepal: Riot police detain a student activist at a protest rally in Katmandu, Nepal, on Sunday. Demonstrators chanted against King Gyanendra, demanding restoration of democracy and withdrawal of a state of emergency since last month. As demonstrations continued Monday, police arrested dozens of protesters, while communist rebels threatened to plunge the Himalayan country deeper into crisis by pledging to step up attacks. More than 30 activists were arrested in Katmandu, where some 200 people railled in the city's Ason market, waving the red and white flags of the Nepali Congress, the nation's largest political party. "We want democracy, we want freedom," they chanted.

tences, a ruling the Supreme Court on Monday deemed unconstitutional.

Milan air disaster: An Italian judge on Monday convicted four people and acquitted three others in a 2001 plane crash that killed 118 people at Milan's Linate airport in Italy's worst civil aviation disaster, a lawyer for victims' relatives said.

The four were convicted of multiple manslaughter and sentenced to prison terms of up to four years and four months, said lawyer Alessandro Giorgetti. Three of the defendants were employees of Italy's air traffic control agency, ENAV, while one was an airport official, Giorgetti said.

Kosovo's future: Belgrade officials were to meet Monday to plot a strategy on Kosovo ahead of talks expected later this year on the contested province's future.

The top-level meeting in the Serbian capital, Belgrade, will include Serbia-Montenegro President Svetozar Marovic, Serbia's President Boris Tadic, Serbian Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica and others.

The officials will try to outline Serbia-Montenegro's position on Kosovo — a southern Serbian province that has been an international protectorate since 1999, said a government official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

War crimes tribunals: Kosovo's former prime minister pleaded not guilty Monday to a list of atrocities he allegedly committed as a commander of the Western-backed ethnic Albanian separatists, and a former Bosnian Serb paramilitary commander surrendered to the U.N. war crimes tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands — the 11th suspect to give himself up this year.

Ramush Haradinaj, who resigned last Wednesday as Kosovo's prime minister, responded "not guilty" to each of 37 counts of war crimes allegedly committed in 1998.

Turkey earthquakes: A strong earthquake shook eastern Turkey on Monday, damaging buildings and injuring at least 18 people two days after another quake in the region, authorities said.

The earthquake with a preliminary magni-

tude of 5.9 was centered in rural Bingol province and struck at 3.55 a.m., toppling several buildings that had been badly damaged in Saturday's magnitude 5.7 temblor, officials said. Authorities said there no reports of any deaths. but at least 18 people were injured.

Deadly Philippines snacks: Laboratory tests show that 27 schoolchildren who died after eating cassava roots last week in the Philippines were poisoned with pesticide,

Philippines were poisoned with pesticide, health experts said Monday. Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit told a news conference that tests showed pesticide was likely the cause.

"This means that it's very much possible that the food was prepared in an environment that was highly toxic and contaminated with chemical poisons and bacteria," Davrit said.

Asian bird flu precautions: Hong Kong's government said Monday it plans to step up precautions against bird flu and slash the local chicken population by half to 1.8 million, sparking outrage from the poultry industry.

Locals have long favored freshly slaughtered chicken from live poultry outlets, but authorities want to clamp down on the practice to improve hygiene.

The reduced chicken supply of 1.8 million birds would allow officials to better control the birds if a bird flu outbreak occurs, Hong Kong's Health, Welfare and Food Bureau said in briefing paper for lawmakers discussed Monday.

Violent G8 protests: About 150 protesters detained at the Group of Eight summit in northern Italy in 2001 were kicked, slapped, tripped, kneed in the groin and dragged by their hair, according to a report.

Prosecutors in Genoa released a 534-page report over the weekend detailing "inhuman" and "degrading" behavior by police officers, corrections officers and doctors at the Bolzaneto police garrison, Italian media reported Sunday.

What happens next is unclear: Nearly four years have gone by, and unless the judicial process is put on a fast track the statute of limitations could run out, Milan daily Corriere della Sera reported.

Stories and photo from The Associated Press

Kurds, Shiites work to form government

· STARS AND STRIPES · MIDEAST EDITION ·

Both sides dealing to put a coalition team in power for opening of parliament March 16

By Sameer N. Vacour Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD - Kurdish leaders converged on Baghdad for talks Monday with majority Shiites as both sides pressed to secure a deal to form a coalition government before the newly elected parliament meets for the first time this week

Shiites and Kurds have been haggling over the makeup of the government since a new National Assembly was elected Jan. 30. The parliament

The political deal calls for Jalal Tala bani, a Kurdish leader, to be named president. Conservative Islamic Dawa Party leader Ibrahim al-Jaafari of the Shiite majority United Iraqi Alliance co-

"We're not interested in the government posts, we're more interested in Kurdistan and Irao's interests." Talabani said in Sulaimaniyah, 160 miles northeast of Baghdad.

"We have made good progress. We have a common understanding with the United Iraqi Alliance that we should establish an Iraqi state based on the principles of federalism and respecting human and women's rights.

Ali al-Dabagh of the clergy-backed alliance said he was optimistic a final deal would be reached before parliament meets Wednesday. But agreement is reached, the first session of the national assembly will be held on Wednesday anyway," he said.

Outside the northern Iraqi city of Irbil. Kurdish leaders met Sunday to work on final details on a coalition government in accordance with a deal reached earlier this month with the United Iraqi Alliance.

"The basic Kurdish demands are not about the Kurds only but the whole of Iraq, we are working for an Iraqi process — a coalition government that respects the constitution," said Interim Deputy Prime Minister Barham Saleh, a Kurd

Interim Foreign Minister Hoshvar Zebari, also a Kurd, said a Kurdish delewas to meet with the alliance again Monday before the deal is announced, emphasizing that a final agreement was close.

Talibani, Saleh and Zebari all headed to Baghdad from the north Monday.

The Kurds won 75 seats in the 275-member National Assembly. The alliance won 140 seats and needs Kurdish support to assemble the two-thirds majority to elect a president, who will then give a mandate to the prime minis-

independence, protected from Saddam Hussein's military by a U.S.-enforced no-fly zone. The Kurdish enclave since has been off-limits to the Iraqi army.

In violence Monday in northern Iraq. gunmen killed Hussam Hilal Sarsam, a cameraman for the Kurdish satellite channel KurdSat witnesses in Mosul

cide car bomb exploded in Youssifiyah, said police Lt. Adnan Mohammed. The blast missed a convoy of sport utility ve-hicles, hitting a civilian vehicle instead and wounding four people



Kurdish leader Jalal Talabani, likely soon to be named Iraqi president, and other Kurdish leaders were converging on Baghdad for last-minute talks Monday with majority Shiites as both sides pressed to secure a deal to form a coalition government before the newly-elected parliament meets for the first time later this week.

meets Wednesday.

alition would become prime minister.

Since 1991, Kurds enjoyed de facto

Twelve miles south of Baghdad, a sui-

U.S. deaths in Iraq

As of Sunday, March 13, at least 1,513 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,153 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense Department.

The figures include four military civilians.

The AP count is five higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. Friday

The British military has reported 86 deaths. Italy has renorted 20 death: Ilkraine 18: Poland, 17; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, eight; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each. Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Kazakh-stan and Latvia have reported

The latest deaths reported by the military: ■ No deaths reported.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■No identifications report-ed.

Dutch troops coming home from Iraq



A Dutch soldier, part of a group of about 150 soldiers who are the first to return after the Dutch mission ended in Iraq, hugs a woman Monday at Eindhoven airport, southern Netherlands. The Dutch, who sent 1,400 troops to Iraq's relatively peaceful Muthana province as part of the U.S.-led coalition, handed over formal control of their base to the British on March 7; troops are returning in a phased pullout.

Former Italian hostage undergoes operation

wounded by U.S. gunfire in Baghdad underwent surgery on her shoul-der Monday, her second since the shooting, a Rome hospital said. Giuliana Sgrena has been hospitalized in Rome's Celio military hos-

pital since her return to Italy on March 5, a day after being released from a month's captivity and being mistakenly shot by U.S. troops on her way to Baghdad airport.

In Monday's operation, surgeons sutured muscles and tendons in her left shoulder, the hospital said in a bulletin. Sgrena is expected to be released in a few days, it said.

From The Associated Presi

Joint Chiefs chairman in Iraq to see progress since election

The Associated Press

MOSUL, Iraq - The new commander of U.S. forces in northern Iraq said Monday he is encouraged at progress in giving Iraqis more control over their own security and economic future.

Brig. Gen. Kevin Bergner told Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, that a portion of Mosul airport would soon he turned over to the Iragis for use as a civilian airport and an economic development zone.

"This is one of the engines of change." Bergner said.

Myers arrived in Mosul on Monday morning aboard an Air Force C-17 cargo plane from Cairo, Egypt, where he met Sunday with his Egyptian military counterparts and with U.S. military offic-

ROME - The Italian journalist and former hostage in Iraq who was It was Myers' first visit to Iraq since the Jan. 30 elections.

He said before arriving that he hoped to see how much progress is being made in training and equipping Iraqi security forces.

Mosul, the largest city in northern Iraq, is mainly Sunni Arab

It has been a center of sectari-



Gen. Richard Myers an strife and the site of assassina-

tions of Iraqi security officials. A suicide bombing of a U.S. military mess tent on Dec. 21 killed 22 people, including 15 American service personnel.

Myers, who is the most senior American military officer, was accompanied on the flight to Mosul by his wife, Mary Jo Myers, who immediately departed for a visit elsewhere in the Persian Gulf.

Cairo that about 142,000 Iraqi security forces are now trained, including police.

He said the key is improving their capability to deal with the vi olent insurgency so that American forces eventually can be with-

Also in Egypt, Myers said the United States will resume participating in the Bright Star war games in Egypt this year after scaling back in 2001 due to the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and canceling in 2003 because of the Iraq war.

The difficulty of providing substantial numbers of U.S. ground forces for joint exercises with allies while the fighting continues in Iraq is not unique to Bright

It is one of the biggest multinational military exercises, about 70,000 troops from about a dozen countries usually taking

Myers, on his first visit to Egypt in more than three years, met with Defense Minister Mohamed Hussein Tantawi and Lt. Gen. Hamdi Moustafa Weheba, who is Myers' counterpart as Egypt's chief of defense.





Above: The new Pat Tilman USO center at Bagram Air Base. Afghanistan, is scheduled to open in early April, Left: Modular housing units on Bagram Air Base. Most of the housing being built can accommodate two people per unit.

ermanent structures rise up in Ba

BY KENT HARRIS

Stars and Strings

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan -Whether you call it Bagram Air Base or Bagram airfield, the U.S. military facility in northeast Afghanistan is no longer just a glorified city of tents. Slowly, but steadily, a slew of construc-

tion projects is providing troops with better housing and improved work areas as well as a handful of

new shops for eating and entertainment. "We've been in ex-



peditionary mode and now it's sustainment," said Air Force Col. Rita Meyer, commander of the 455th Expeditionary Mis sion Support Group, echoing the comechoing ments of her Army counterparts.

For airmen, sol-diers and Marines on base, that means better living conditions, though no one is promising an overnight fix.

"In two to four years, we expect that everyone will be living in permanent hous-ing," said Army Lt. Col. Jim Anderson, commander of Facility Engineering commander Engineering Team-17 and the de facto director of public works on base

In fact, the founda tion for the the first structure designated for Army housing has heen laid

Its first occupants will likely be mem-bers of the 12th Aviation Brigade from Giebelstadt, Germany

Capt. Paul Salinas said the two-story facilities would contain 38 bedrooms, with the possibility of a single soldier or two soldiers sharing a room.

More construction projects in works

Construction at the main U.S. base in Julius are scheduled to open in the next Afghanistan has vastly improved troops' quality of life.

Here are some of the projects built in the last year, under way or planned: ■ The first brick-and-mortar Army

housing is under construction. It has 38 bedrooms and indoor plumbing.

- Other such structures and modular metal, housing, are planned.
- A chain fence now encircles the perimeter, replacing concertina wire.
- Three dining facilities, two base/post exchanges, an Army hospital, offices and headquarter buildings have appeared in
- the last year. ■ Burger King, an Italian pizzeria, two coffee shops and a Thai restaurant are serving troops now
- Popeyes, Dairy Queen and Orange

few months

- Besides the two exchanges, there are also a few shops selling local goods.
- Facilities for continuing education working out and staying in touch with those back home have also been built across the base in the last year.
- Construction on the Pat Tillman Center, which will house the USO and a cafe for those coming in or departing, is under-
- An additional runway is planned so more fighter jets can use the air base
- Airmen volunteers built a post office, recreation room and library on the Air Force side of the base
- Modern shower/latrine facilities are

- Kent Harris

The Army's newer

options,

the

They'll also have indoor plumbing - a rarity on a base that has virtually no sewer or water lines. Lt. Col. Kurt Floyd, Anderson's deputy,

said that fact alone has made developing a blueprint for the base quite a challenge. Trucks carry water to containers around the base and haul away sewage from porta-

ble latrines There's also the matter of clearing any building sites for mines before any construction can begin.

Most troops live in B-huts — though no one on base knows what the "B" stands for

— 18-by-36-foot structures made of plywood designed to hold eight troops.

Air conditioning units are installed. Some troops sleep on cots and some have beds

Toilets and showers are in centralized locations that can be up to a long city block away.

Floyd said the B-huts are an improveent on tents, but not as nice as the SEAhuts — which stands for Southeast Asia Huts - in places such as Camp Bondsteel in Kosovo.



with. Floyd said.

them build

and hrick-and-mortar buildings, will gradually replace all of Local nationals will the

brick-and-mortar buildings using mate rials they're familiar

Command Sgt. Maj. Tim Green, the top

enlisted soldier in Bagram's base opera-

tions group, said he's seen a great deal of changes in his year in country.
"We went from tents to B-huts, tents to

permanent structures for DFACs (dining

facilities) and the pavement," he said. The pavement that Green referred to is a narrow strip of sidewalk that runs parallel to the main road

Disney hase: Drive. The road, which runs from the main gate in the south to the north perimeter,

won't always be the only paved road on base, Floyd said.

He pointed to a road under construction

that will follow the base perimeter. Another major accomplishment is the pe-

rimeter itself, Floyd said There's now a chain fence with sensors along the entire perimeter, instead of just concertina wire that encircled it a year

ago. At present, all living quarters and the majority of base facilities are either located off Disney Drive or on small, dirt roads

stretching from it. On the Air Force side, Meyer said major

improvements are being made on the exist-ing runway, despite a constant, heavy influx of passengers and material.

New hangars are planned, but that wouldn't come until maintenance facilities and other offices are built.

Airmen also are living in crowded B-huts, she said

'We are not living in the best accommodations in the region and we're going to get

that changed," Meyer said. Anderson said construction might seem slow to some, but progress is being made rapidly across the base.

'I'd like to see some pictures in five vears.

2nd GI in court for alleged drowning

BY T.A. BADGER The Associated Press

FORT HOOD, Texas — The platoon leader accused of ordering soldiers to force two Iraqis into the Tigris River at gunpoint was set for his court-martial to begin Monday afternoon.

Army 1st Lt. Jack Saville is charged with involuntary man-slaughter, aggravated assault, obstruction of justice, conspiracy and making a false statement. The 25-year-old West Point graduate faces a maximum penalty of 29 years in military prison if con-

He is accused of ordering troops to push two curfew violators into the river near Samarra in early 2004, resulting in the drowning death of Zaidoun Has-

soun, 19.

But defense lawyers contend
Zaidoun is still alive, and in December a judge granted a defense
request to have the body exhumed to determine identification and cause of death. It's unclear if that exhumation has happened.

In January, Saville's co-defendant, Sgt. 1st Class Tracy Perkins, faced the same charges and was convicted of two counts of aggravated assault, obstruction of justice and assault consummated

by battery.
Perkins, however, was acquitted of manslaughter and making a false statement. The conspiracy charge was dismissed earlier in his military trial at Fort Hood.



MICHAEL ABRAN

A dump truck pours gravel that the grader will then level at the end of a ceremony that marked the beginning of the resurfacing of the Panjshir-Parwan road near Charikar, Afghanistan. The Provincial Reconstruction Team Parwan stationed at Bagram Air Base and the U.S. Agency for International Development were instrumental in getting the work on the road done.

Afghan road's repair begins with fanfare

U.S., local officials praise evidence of reconstruction in northern area

BY KENT HARRIS Stars and Strings

CHARIKAR, Afghanistan — A resurfaced

road generally doesn't draw much attention in many parts of the world.

But in Afghanistan, where good roads are a rarity, a ceremony to announce a plan to upgrade about 45 miles between Panjishir and Parwan draw a crowd, featuring the country's president and vice president, the U.S. ambassador and the senior U.S. military commandi

in Afghanistan.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai, U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan Zalamay Khalilzad and a handful of local and national officials spoke under a pavilion that helped to keep away some of the intermittent rain Monday afternoon.

"Afghanistan has come a long way, but it still has a long way to go," said Khalilzad, who will soon become the American ambassador to Iraq. "The reconstruction needs of the country are great. Especially given the destruction of

the last 25 years."
The road — currently a mix of dirt along with a few rocks — will serve a number of purposes, Khalilzad said. He cited local industry, agriculture, tourism, coal mining, security and medical care as a reas that would

benefit. The U.S. Agency for In-

ternational Development is funding the project, which is set to start soon. The work will cost about \$2.7 million, according to the Associated Press.

Karzai, speaking in Pashto, received a

warm welcome from the crowd. He arrived and departed via a U.S. Chinook helicopter.

American and Afghan forces provided heavy security for the event both on the ground and in the

on the ground and in the air.

Lt. Gen. David Barno, the senior American commander in Afghanistan, said the road would likely be used by the U.S. military on occasion, but said that wasn't

the reason he was happy

to see it going ahead.



Khalilzad

"Everything we do to improve the economy for the Afghans is a benefit for us," he said. "This whole area was just devastated by the Soviets and the Taliban."

-mail Kent Harris at: harrisk@mail.estripes.osd.mil

Murder or self-defense?

Marine faces charges in deaths of two Iraqis

BY JOHN DESANTIS
The (Wilmington, N.C.) Star-News

WILMINGTON, N.C. — When 2nd Lt. Ilario Pantano and other members of his Marine Corps infantry platoon arrived in Iraq

rantry piatoor
early last
spring they
were trained
for combat,
but also
ready to
wage a battle
for the population's
hearts and

minds.
Now, the
33-year-old
New York
City native
faces a diffe

City native faces a different kind of battle, against the armed forces whose uniform he still proudly wears. Pantano has officially been ac-

cused of premeditated murder a capital charge—for shooting two alleged insurgents he took captive near the town of Mahmudiyah, where his Marine infantry unit was based from March to October of 2004.

The Marine Corps is not talking, other than to confirm that a preliminary hearing will be held in April, citing concerns for Pantano's rights. Official documents say that on April 15, 2004, two men, Hamaady Kareem and Tahah Hanjil, were attempting to fee a house where combat materials were found in a Marine search.

During the ensuing encounter, the documents allege, Pantano broke military law by ordering the two detained men released from their handcuffs, ordering the only two fellow servicemembers nearby to face away as Kareem and Hanjil searched their own car — which had already been searched their own car — which had already been searched their own car in the back, then placing a sign atop the car that read "No better friend, no worse enemy."

Pantano and his Virginia-based attorney, Charles Gittins, say the killings were a legitimate act of self-defense.



CHARLIE COON/Stars and Stripes

A soldier carries his laundry Saturday morning at Forward Operating Base Warhorse in Baqouba, Iraq. Central Iraq received about seventh-tenths of an inch of rainfall on Thursday and Friday.

Sunday lives up to its name after rain

By CHARLIE COON Stars and Stripes

Stars and Stripes

BAQOUBA, Iraq — Sunday was a day of springcleaning and drying out for many soldiers throughout central Iraq after last week's downpours turned many bases into mud pits.

About seven-tenths of an inch of rain fell in Baghdad from Wednesday afternoon through Friday afternoon, which represented about 70 percent of the month's normal rainfall, according to Air Force Master Sgt. Shavn Peno of the 42nd Infantry Division's weather office in Tikrit.

"This is a significant amount of rain we received in a

short period of time," Peno said late Friday afternoon, and the rain was still coming down.

and the rain was still coming down.

Sunday's sunshine allowed soldiers at Forward Operating Base Warhorse to open their door, sweep the dirt out of their hooches, shake out their floor rugs and

brush off the dried mud from their boots.

"As long as you have a change of boots, you won't have a problem," said Staff Sgt. Leonard Willis of West Palm Beach, Fla., and 203rd Forward Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team.

"I remembered it downpoured twice in Kuwait back in 2003," said Sgt. Kevin Wigger of Headquarters Company, 3rd Brigade Troop Battalion. "But nothing like

Wigger spent the day cleaning out his hooch and brushing off his boots.

"The 1st sergeant is coming [to inspect] at 15:30." E-mail Charlie Coon at: coonc@mail.estripes.osd.mil

Ex-Sanchez aide to take intelligence post

Appointment of Maj. Gen. Barbara Fast had been put on hold during Abu Ghraib probe

44 She's maintained that

she had a job to do

and got on with.

BY JON R. ANDERSON Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — Two of the top officers who served under Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez in Iraq — and were responsible for oversight of the units at Abu Ghraib detention facility at the time — have been given new high-profile jobs.

Maj. Gen. Barbara Fast, who served as chief of intelligence for Sanchez, will take command of the U.S. Army Intelligence Center at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., on Wednes-

Cleared of wrongdoing by military investigators, Fast will be handed the colors of the service's main intelligence training schoolhouse from Gen. Kevin Byrnes, the commander of the Army's Training and Doctrine Command, according to Fort Huachuca spokasman Msi. Paul Karnzya.

chuca spokesman Maj. Paul Karmaze.
The top post at the Intelligence Center
has been vacant since Maj. Gen. James A.
Marks left in June. Although Fast arrived
as Marks was leaving with orders to take
over the school, her assignment was put
into a nine-month limbo as investigators
looked into her role in Ahu Ghraib scandal.

An investigation led by former Defense Secretary James Schlesinger released in August criticized Fast, finding that she "failed to advise (Sanchez) properly on the directives and policies needed" for interrogations and for inadequately monitoring CIA operations at the detention facilities.

Since then, however, internal Army investigations have cleared Fast of any wrongdoing.

"She's maintained that she had a job to do and got on with," Karnaze said. While he said Fast will offer

a brief news conference after assuming command, he does not expect her to entertain questions about Abu Ghraib. "Her focus is on the future now." he

said. Meanwhile, Maj. Gen. Walter Wojdakowski, Sanchez's deputy commander in Iraq, has been given a postion of greater responsibility as acting deputy commander of Army forces in Europe, directly under Gen. B.R. Bell said It. Col. Jane Crichton a U.S. Army Europe spokeswoman. The position is traditionally a three-star assignment requiring Senate approval.

During his yearlong tour in Iraq, Wojdakowski was responsible for overseeing V Corps' "separate brigades," including the 800th Military Police Brigade and the

205th Military Intelligence Brigade. Both units were responsible for operations at Abu Ghraib and their commanders were harshly criticized for weak and ineffectual leadership that directty contributed to the

Maj. Paul Karnaze Fort Huachuca, Ariz., spokesman

> abuses, according to several investigations.
>
> An investigation led by Lt. Gen. Anthony Jones concluded that Wojdakowski along with Sanchez "failed to ensure proper staff

> Jones concluded that Wojdakowski along with Sanchez, "failed to ensure proper staff oversight of detention and interrogation operations," highlighting Wojdakowski's "direct oversight" of the two brigade commanders.

Brig. Gen. Janis Karpinski, commander of the 800th MP Brigade, who recently received a letter of reprimand for leadership failures, said Wojdakowski once told her "I don't care if we're holding 15,000 innocent civilians! We're winning the war!" according to a sworn statement by Karpinski obtained by the American Civil Liberties Union through the Freedom of Information Act.

Both Wojdakowski and Sanchez — who remains commander of V Corps — are still under investigation.

Until recently Wojdakowski had remained Sanchez's deputy in Germany, after returning from Iraq. According to the Army General Officer Management Office in Washington, Wojdakowski had been reassigned, serving as "special assistant" to Bell, a job that does not otherwise exist at that level.

In real terms, Crichton said, Wojdakowski now works as Bell's acting deputy and chief of staff. Traditionally either job is a career-enhancing position usually reserved for leaders being groomed for promotion.

E-mail Jon R. Anderson at: jon.anderson@stripes.osd.mil

3,000 1st AD soldiers train for deployment to Iraq in 2006

BY STEVE MRAZ Stars and Stripes

Over the next three months, about 3,000 soldiers from V Corps' 1st Armored Division will deploy for exercises at Hohenfels and Grafenwohr training areas in southeast Germany to get soldiers ready for their next Tray deployment.

This round of training was scheduled before 1st AD units returned from Iraq in July 2004. Exercise Iron Lightning will ready the units for their next trip downrange in early 2006, said Capt. Aaron Hatok, a 1st AD snokesman.

"This is what the commander considers to be the capstone of their retraining in coming back from Iraq," Hatok said. "This training puts everything together in an environment where they'll be able to conduct full spectrum operations when they're complete."

By full spectrum operations, Hatok refers to having units capable of conducting counter-insurgency operations as well as major combat operations. About 3,000 1st AD troops recently returned from

a similar two-month training exercise in Grafenwöhr and Hohenfels.

The exercises encompass lessons that U.S. forces have learned in Iran, such as having traditional field

have learned in Iraq, such as having traditional field artillery regiments act as task forces performing counter-insurgency operations, Hatok said. Those counter-insurgency operations include raids and patrols.

And much like combat deployments, the action begins as soon as the units depart, said Maj. Michael Indovina, 1st AD spokesman.

"It's 'game on' the minute you leave the back gate," Indovina said.

The 2nd Brigade Combat Team, mainly com-

posed of the 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment; 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment; and 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, recently completed Exercise Iron Lightning.

The Division Artillery Combat Team, primarily from the 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment; 1st Battalion, 37th Armored Regiment; and 1st Battal-



CHRISTOPHER STANIS/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

A team of 2nd Brigade soldiers conducts a raid during their training exercise at the Combat Maneuver Training Center at Hohenfels, Germany.

F-mail Steve Mraz at: mrazs@mail.estrines.osd.mi

ion, 94th Field Artillery Regiment, are training now.

Detainees' transfer blocked

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A federal judge has blocked the government from transferring 13 Yemenis from the U.S. detention center at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, until a hearing is held on concerns the detainees may be mistreated in another country.

The judge's ruling temporarily blocks any plans by the government to transfer the detainees to prisons in other countries.

Lawyers are worried the govern-

ment will try to move them to another country in order to "warehouse them in a prison, provide them with no legal process and, in effect, avoid the American court process altogether," said Marc Falkoff, an attorney for the detain-

U.S. District Judge Rosemary Collyer's ruling Saturday on an emergency petition blocks any attempt to move the Yemenis until a hearing is held on their lawyers' request for notice if their clients are to be transferred.

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IN THE WORLD

China passes anti-secession legislation

New bill OKs use of force against Taiwan

By CHRISTOPHER RODEEN

The Associated Press

BELIING. China's parliament enacted a law Monday authorizing force to stop rival Taiwan from pursuing formal independence, sparking outrage on the self-governing island and warnings that the measure would fuel regional ten-

The ceremonial National People's Congress passed the law despite U.S. appeals for restraint. It came a day after President Hu Jintao called on China's military to be ready for war and followed a 12.6 percent increase in the country's defense budget for 2005.

Premier Wen Jiabao said the mainland still wants to unite peacefully with the island and doesn't want to disrupt the status quo

"It is not targeted at the people of Taiwan, nor is it a war bill," Wen said at a news conference. But he also warned outsiders not to get involved: "We do not wish to see foreign interference."

A Taiwanese government spokesman rejected the measure as a "serious provocation.

"It also brought emotional pain to the Taiwanese people, restricts Taiwan's freedom and democracy, and has a serious impact on security in the East-Asia

region," said Joseph Wu, chairman of the island's Mainland Affairs Council, which handles policy toward Beijing.

In a session broadcast on national television, the Chinese delegates burst into applause after the law was approved by a 2.896-0 vote, with two abstentions. The body usually votes overwhelmingly for Communist Party policies, but the emphatic result was meant to send a message of the intensity of Beijing's sentiment on the issue.

Taiwan and China split in 1949 Beijing has threatened repeatedly to at-tack if it tries to make its de facto independence permanent. The United States is Taiwan's biggest arms supplier and could be drawn into any conflict over the island

A leading Taiwanese lawmaker criticized the measure as a "savage law."

It shows that China "feels futile and doesn't know how to deal with Taiwan's democracy and freedom," said Chen Chin-jun, a member of the ruling Democratic Progressive Party.

The law says China would "employ nonpeaceful means and other necessary measures to protect China's sovereignty and territorial integrity." It said such steps could be taken if Taiwan declared formal independence, if "major incidents" occurred causing Taiwan to sepa-



A pro-Taiwan independence demonstra tor displaying anti-China slogans sits outside the Legislature during a rally against China's anti-secession law on Monday in Taipei, Taiwan.

rate permanently from China, or if "possibilities for a peaceful reunification should be completely exhausted."

The law doesn't give details of what specific developments might trigger an attack. It adds no new threats or conditions, but it codifies the measures for authorizing military action.

Legislators said the law would send a message that Beijing's patience was

Russia, Pakistan among few to support new law

The Associated Press

TOKYO - China's threat Monday to oppose Taiwanese independence with military force triggered a call for peaceful dialogue from Japan and a discussion of Australia's treaty obligations should a war break out. But Russia and Pakistan supported Beijing's new legislation.

"I want the two sides to work hard toward a peaceful solution, so there will not be any nega-tive impact," said Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, whose government recently declared a diplomatic resolution of the Taiwan dispute as a strategic objective with the United

An outbreak of hostilities would be a severe blow to stability in East Asia, possibly prompting a response from the United States has some 50,000 troops in Japan and 35,000 in South Korea — to defend Taiwan.

Such a conflict could pin top U.S. allies in the area such as Japan and Australia between trea-ty obligations to Washington and reluctance to alienate China, which is assuming a growing political and economic role in the region.

Russia on Monday reaffirmed Moscow's opposition to independence for Taiwan and said it considered the question of Taiwan an internal matter for China, a top strategic partner for Russia in Asia

Not all Asian countries were worried about the move. Pakistan, a long time ally of China, supported the new law.

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Israel approves final route for barrier wall

BY MARK LAVII The Associated Press

JERUSALEM - Prime Minis ter Ariel Sharon has approved the final route of a barrier around Jerusalem that will include the largest Jewish settlement in the West Bank on the Israeli side, officials said Monday, prompting Palestinian complaints that Israel is endangering peace efforts.

The decision means the barrier will encompass lands claimed by the Palestinians for a future state. including traditionally Arab east Jerusalem, the intended Palestinian capital. The barrier also will include a chunk of the Palestinian town of Bethlehem, south of Jerusalem, to encompass a Jewish shrine, officials said.

Israel began building a separation barrier in the West Bank two years ago, saying its aim was to keep out Palestinian attackers.

Palestinians say Israel could have built the barrier on its own security. They say the real inten-tion was to grab West Bank land and draw a final border without waiting for a peace deal.

Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat warned that approval of the Jerusalem segment could destroy efforts to revive peace talks.

"This is a policy of dictation and not negotiation," Erekat said. "This prejudges and prejudices the outcome of permanent status negotiations.'

The barrier - a complex of walls, fences, trenches, barbed wire and electronic devices - is expected to run about 425 miles.

One-third of the barrier has been completed

In the West Bank city of Ramallah, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said after a meeting with Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas that the United Nations is establishing a register of damage es to Palestinian property and



A demonstrator bangs with a rock on the gate of the Palestinian Authority presidential compound as Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas meets U.N Secretary-General Kofi Annan during a demonstration against Israel's separation barrier in Ramallah.

claims against Israel resulting from the barrier construction.

"We are establishing that register to be able in time to help with those claims," he said.

As Annan spoke, Palestinian policemen restrained hundreds of demonstrators at the main gate of the government compound.

The demonstrators carried

until its collapse," and "Bring down the wall," and scuffled with policemen, throwing rocks at the main gate of the compound.

Annan said the U.N. position on the barrier is clear. The General Assembly has passed a resolution against the barrier, and the U.N.'s world court said in an advisory ruling last year it was illegal and must be torn down.

The decision on the final route of the Jerusalem segment of the barrier was made late Sunday in a meeting of senior Cabinet ministers chaired by Sharon, a senior government official said on condition of anonymity.

Under the plan, prepared by the National Security Council, the West Bank settlement of Maaleh Adumim would be included on Israel's side of the barrier Eleven crossings would be built into the barrier to allow access from the West Bank, and construction will be completed by year's end, the official said.

Afghan girls still forced into marriage

BY MATTHEW PENNINGTON The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan - Bibi, 14, has never seen the father who wants to sell her into marriage with a stranger.

She hid when he sent police to her village home in northern Afghanistan a month ago. Her elder brother Kareem refused to hand her over and was dragged off to jail. But Bibi found sanctuary a sympathetic relative in Kabul, where she now lives in fear her father will one day catch un with her

The relative, Shahnoz, said the girl's father is not interested in finding a suitable mate for his daughter and only wants to get his hands on the dowry.

Bibi's story is far from unique Despite the re-emergence of democracy and women's rights in Afghanistan, human rights officials say between 60 percent and 80 percent of marriages in the country are forced on women.

Girls and women are often wedded off for economic gain or to settle scores between feuding families, even though both practices run counter to civil and Islamic law. While marriages arranged by families are the norm in this conservative Muslim country, they are meant to have the consent of the bride and groom.

In Bibi's case the groom is a wealthy, older man looking for a second wife. Her relatives reckon he is willing to pay about \$7,000 for her — a small fortune in one of the world's poorest countries. "My father does not care about



Fourteen-year-old Bibi, a shy ethnic-Pashtun Afghan girl, is seen earlier this month in Kabul. Afghanistan, where she is hiding from her father who wants to force her into marriage to an older man she doesn't know.

my life," said Bibi, who like many Afghans, goes by one name. "He never brought clothes or food. My family is my mother and Ka-

The father, Rafur, could not be



Iran: Nuclear energy needed

BY TAREK AL-ISSAWI The Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran - Iran, accused by the United States of using a nuclear energy program as a front to produce weapons. has repeatedly said its program is for peaceful purposes only, and that it needs nuclear power to generate enough electricity to remain self-sufficient.

But the United States is disputing that claim, too, saving the Gulf nation does not need nuclear power for electricity because it has massive oil and gas reserves.

Iran gets set to host a meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries this week.

In a region largely dependent on the West for vital military and industrial needs, energy-rich Iran has long stood out as a nearly self-sufficient nation that is everting its efforts to produce nuclear energy despite stiff resistance from the international community.

Iran's total recoverable oil reserves exceed 130 billion barrels. equal to 12 percent of the world's oil. It has an oil production canaci-

Tehran issues nuke stamp

TEHRAN, Iran - Iran's postal service issued a stamp Monday lauding the country's achieve ments in nuclear technology, state-run television reported.

President Mohammad Khatami oversaw the ceremony launching the new stamp during a visit to Iran's atomic energy or-

ty of 4.2 million barrels a day making it the second biggest producer of oil in the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries after Saudi Arabia.

It has also discovered new oil fields in recent years, including a new field announced last week Ramin, which is said to hold 855 million barrels

The U.S.-based Energy Information Administration estimated that in 2003. Iran produced 3.9 million barrels of oil a day, exported 2.5 million of those and locally consumed 1.4 million.

contends it is pursuing technology for civilian use — is also fea-However, the country disputes the idea that those reserves mean it should not seek nuclear power.

The stamp features a picture

of the Bushehr nuclear power

plant emblazoned over a map of

Iran, along with emblems of the

country's atomic energy agen-

cy: a bunch of wheat and a book.

bolize the peaceful nature of

Iran's nuclear program — Iran

tured on the stamp.

A lightning bolt meant to sym-

"America has more oil than Iran and Russia has more gas than Iran, and both of them have many nuclear power plants," said Asadollah Sabouri, deputy head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran.

Iran's Nuclear Energy Council has said the country must produce 7,000 megawatts of electricity through nuclear power plants by 2021 to meet its increasing electricity demands. Iran's parliament has asked for the construction of 20 nuclear power plants.



Beirut sees new anti-Syria protest drawing thousands in a refugee camp'

BY SAM F. GHATTAS The Associated Press

BEIRUT, Lebanon - Hundreds of thousands of opposition demonstrators chanted "Freedom, sovereignty, independence' and unfurled a huge Lebanese flag in Beirut on Monday, the biggest protest yet in the opposition's duel of street rallies with supporters of the Damascus-backed government.

Crowds of men women and children flooded Martyrs Square. spilling over into nearby streets, while more from across the country packed the roads into Beirut.

'We are coming to liberate our country. We are coming to de-mand the truth," said Fatma Trad, a veiled Sunni Muslim woman who traveled from the remote region of Dinniyeh in northern Lebanon to take part.

The assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri exactly one month ago sparked the series of protests against Syria, the dominant power in Lebanon.

The throngs fell silent at 12:55 p.m. - the exact time Hariri was killed four weeks ago by a huge bomb in Beirut. The silence was broken only by church bells tolling and the flutter of flags.

Monday's protest easily topped a pro-government rally of hun-dreds of thousands of people last week by the Shiite Muslim militant group Hezbollah. That show of strength forced the opposition to try to regain its momentum.

Syria's military withdrawal continued Monday, with intelligence agents closing two offices in the



banese opposition protestors wave national flags and portraits of slain former Premier Rafik Hariri on Monday in central Beirut, Lebanon.

northern towns of Amyoun and Deir Ammar, on the coastal road between the port of Tripoli and the Syrian border.

The opposition is demanding a full Syrian withdrawal, the resignations of Lebanese security chiefs and an international inves tigation into Hariri's Feb. 14 as-

A senior Lebanese army officer said Sunday that 4,000 Syrian sol-- more than a quarter of those serving in Lebanon just a week ago - have been brought back to Syria.

Zeina Karam of The Associated Press contributed to this report.

'I never thought I'd meet my husband

Love blooms among tsunami survivors BY MICHAEL CASEY The Associated Press

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia Karmila Wati first noticed Sam-Winda's smile when he checked her into a refugee camp after their homeland was lashed by Asia's deadly tsunami. Winda kept coming back to ensure Wati and her family were getting relief

supplies and soon romance bloomed. The couple - who both lost their homes and some relatives in the tsunami - married at a mosque on Monday and then held a party for fellow survivors under a leaky United Nations tarp in

their survivors' camp. The wedding ceremony was a first for the camp and brought rare smiles to the faces of people still traumatized by the Dec. 26 dithat killed more than 125,000 in their home province of Aceh and left some 400,000 home-

"This is so unbelievable. I never thought I'd meet my husband in a refugee camp," said Wati, 21, sitting next to her husband in their tent. "It must mean that good things will come after all this tragedy.

The newlyweds wore traditional Acehnese wedding clothes Wati in a yellow dress with a golden sniked crown while Winda 25, wore a black and yellow coat, a green hat and a small sword known as a rencong at his side For the 50 guests - mostly



Karmila Wati looks in a mirror before her wedding Monday at a refugee camp in Mata Ie, Aceh Besar, Indonesia. The wedding ceremony was a first for the camp and brought rare smiles to the faces of people still traumatized by the Dec. 26 tsumani disaster.

dressed in donated T-shirts and rubber sandals - the party was a brief respite from their problems and showed a glimmer of normalcy in the badly damaged provincial capital of Banda Aceh. Camp residents volunteered to

help out

'This ceremony helps us forget everything we have been through," said Dewi, 28, as she washed dishes from the party. It was gratifying to see someone happy for a day, said Dewi, who like many Indonesians uses only one name

Dutch study: Most euthanasia of newborns unreported

At least five mercy killings of newborns occur for every one reported to authorities in the Netherlands, doctors there reported just months after the first startling news of the controversial practice. While still very rare, euthanizing terminally ill

newborns is more common than first believed, according to Dutch doctors, and other experts say it also occurs, quietly, in other countries

Since 1985, the Netherlands has allowed euthanasia for competent adults.

In 2002, doctors at University Medical Center Groningen helped create the so-called Groningen protocol, a list of standards for performing and reporting euthanasia of newborns with serious, incurable deformities. The aim was to encourage more reporting and discussion

Two pediatricians at the hospital, Drs. Pieter J.J.

New England Journal of Medicine that 22 mercy killings of newborns who otherwise would have lingered in intensive care for years were reported to authorities from 1997 to 2004, about three each year But national surveys of Dutch doctors have found 15 to 20 such cases a year, out of about 200,000 births.

Verhagen, who supports such euthanasia, said in an interview the doctors were allowed to review district attorneys' records on the 22 reported cases

None was prosecuted.

"We believe that all cases must be reported if the country is to prevent uncontrolled and unjustified euthanasia," the doctors wrote.

The Groningen protocol requires being sure that the newborn is suffering greatly with no hope of improvement, that the prognosis is certain and confirmed by at least one independent doctor, and that both parents give informed consent.

Validating newborn euthanasia

Since 1997, there have been 22 reported cases of euthanasia among Dutch newborns with a chance of survival but a hopeless prognosis of unbearable suffering. Doctors reported the following considerations in making the decision.

Consideration Number of cases Functional disability and severe pain with hopeless prognosis Lack of self-sufficiency Future inability to communicate ••••••••••• Expected hospital dependency •••••••••• 17 Long life expectancy* ••••••• 13 *If life expectancy is long, the burden of other factors is considered greater



IN THE STATES

Ex-Bush adviser Hughes tapped for State post

BY ANNE GEARAN The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - Declaring the United States must do a "better job of engaging the Muslim world.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice intro duced former presidential adviser Karen Hughes Monday as the Bush administra-tion's choice for a State Department post designed to change Islamic perceptions about

"I'm eager to listen and to learn," said Hughes, who, pending confirmation by the Senate, would become undersecretary of state for public diplomacy with the rank of

Rice said the United States must do much more to counter the "hateful propaganda" that is so common in the Islamic world. She said Hughes believes strongly that the Unit-

ed States "must mobilize young people around the world to shatter the mistrust of past grievances and

Also in attendance at the ceremony was Dina Powell, an Egyptian-born former White House aide who is slated to be a top aide to Hughes

Hughes, who for years has had a major voice in crafting President Bush's domestic message, is a former counselor to the president who left the White House in 2002 to move her family back to Texas

She is also a former Texas television reporter. She has continued to advise the president from her home in Austin. Although not a diplomat by training, Hughes had a hand in several foreign policy initiatives during Bush's first term, including efforts to promote democracy and improve the lives of women and children in Afghanistan.

Hughes and Powell will focus on Bush's plan to spread democracy in the Middle East, an effort that has gained momentum with recent elections in Iraq and the Palestinian territories



ence with mur-**Brian Nichols** during an interview Sunday in Atlanta, Smith said her ordeal began with the man sticking a gun in her side and tying her up, but ended with the weanons on the floor as he let her go to see her young daughter

Ashley Smith recounts her hostage experi-

Atlanta hostage recalls ordeal with suspected gunman

BY ELIOTT C. MCLAUGHLIN The Associated Press

ATLANTA - As the Fulton County Courthouse reopened Monday — nearly 72 hours after a judge, deputy and court stenographer were shot dead there Fri day — accounts emerged detailing the ordeal of the woman whom the alleged gunman held hostage before she notified police of his whereabouts.

The woman, Ashley Smith, came forward Sunday saying Brian Nichols let her go after they bonded while discussing God family, pancakes and the massive manhunt going on outside her apartment.

Authorities said the rampage started when Nichols overpowered a sheriff's deputy who was transporting Nichols for the resumption of his trial on rape and other charges.

Nichols could appear in court as early as Tuesday, authorities

Judge Rowland Barnes and his court stenographer, Julie Brandau, had been working Nichols trial when they were killed. Sheriff's Sgt. Hoyt Teasley was killed outside the courthouse, and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent David Wilhelm was killed later

Smith was hailed as a hero for the way she handled herself after Nichols confronted her in the parking lot of her apartment when she returned from a store around 2 a.m. Saturday

"She acted very cool and level-eaded," said Gwinnett County Police Officer Darren Moloney. "It was an absolutely best-case scenario that happened, a complete opposite of what you expected to happen.

Over the course of the night. Nichols untied Smith, and some

richols under Smith, and some of the fear lessened as they talked. Nichols told Smith he felt like "he was already dead," but Smith urged him to consider the fact that he was still alive a "mira-

"I believe God brought him to my door," Smith said Sunday. "You're here in my apartment for some reason," she told him, saying he might be destined to be caught and to spread the word of

God to fellow prisoners. After Smith left the apartment and called police, officers soon surrounded her suburban apartment complex and Nichols gave

up peacefully, waving a white towel in surrender. "I honestly think when I looked at him that he didn't want to do it anymore," Smith said. If he did not give up, she told him, "Lots

more people are probably going get hurt and you're probably going to die." Choking back tears Sunday, she said she told Nichols that her

husband died four years ago and if he hurt her, her little girl wouldn't have a mother or father. Smith's attorney, Josh Archer, said her husband died in her arms after being stabbed. Smith's 5-year-old daughter was not at the anartment during the ordeal. The two talked about the Rible

and she handed him photos of her family. When morning came, Smith said, Nichols was "overwhelmed" when she made him pancakes with real butter. He told her he "just wanted some normalness to his life," she said.

When Nichols finally let Smith go to a planned meeting with her daughter, he said he wanted to stay at the apartment for a few more days.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported Monday that a courthouse surveillance camera re-corded Nichols' initial surprise attack on Deputy Cynthia Hall but that no one in the control center noticed the assault.

A video camera that is supposed to be monitored by two guards in a command post shows Nichols lunging at Hall and knocking her backward, according to a law enforcement official who saw the tape.

Answers sought after Wis. church shooting

JULIET WILLIAMS The Associated Press

BROOKFIELD, Wis. - It was just another weekend service for churchgoers in this Milwaukee suburb when, without warning, they began to be gunned down by one of their own.

Now victims' relatives are struggling to keep their faith and

"This is a totally senseless thing," said Jeff Miller, whose 44-year-old brother, Gerald, died shielding an elderly woman who survived. "He was a great guy. He didn't deserve to die.'

Terry Ratzmann, a churchgoer known for sharing homegrown vegetables with his neighbors. walked into the room and police said he shot 22 bullets from a 9 mm handgun within a minute. None of those who knew him ex-

pected Ratzmann to be violent, though some said he had grappled with depression. Neighbors said he was quiet and devout, that he liked to tinker about his house and garden. He would even release the chipmunks caught in traps he set in his vard

But Saturday, the Sabbath for the Living Church of God, Ratzmann turned on worshippers. When it was over, seven people, including the church's minister and his teenage son, were killed, and four others, including the minister's wife, were wounded. Ratzmann, 44, then shot himself; he sat slumped against the back wall with four rounds left in his gun, police said.

"He wasn't a dark guy. He was average Joe," said Shane Colwell, a neighbor who knew Ratzmann for about a decade. "It's not like he ever pushed his beliefs on any-

one else The 44-year-old computer technician lived with his mother and sister about two miles from the suburban Milwaukee hotel where police say he opened fire during

service. Ratzmann regularly attended the gatherings Member Chandra Frazier said on TV's "Good Morning America" that he had walked out of a recent sermon "sort of in a huff."

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported Monday the Feb. 26 sermon that upset Ratzmann had



Amber Herman cries Sunday outside a hotel in Brookfield, Wis., where a gunman opened fire Saturday at a church service, killing seven people and himself.

made the point that people's problems are of their own making. Although he left no suicide note

and gave no explanation for the killings, investigators said Ratzmann was on the verge of losing his job. Agents who searched Ratzmann's home found three computers containing many encrypted files. They also found a rifle and ammunition.

Jackson's accuser back on stand

SANTA MARIA. Calif. - Michael Jackson's attorney challenged the credibility of the pop star's accuser Monday by cross-examining him a ties between a statement he testified Jackson made and a statement the boy had attributed to his grand-

Cross-examination of the 15-year-old who claims Jackson molested him resumed after a three-day break in testimony

Attorney Thomas Mesereau Jr. recalled that the boy testified Thursday that Jackson told him that if men don't masturbate they might rape women. The attorney noted that the boy told sheriff's investiga-tors in an interview that his grandmother had told him the same thing

New Disney CEO named

LOS ANGELES - Michael Eisner, the longtime CEO of The Walt Disney Co., will step down a year earlier than expected, handing over the reins to Robert Iger and ending a tumultuous stint atop the entertainment giant

Iger, 54, the firm's current president and chief operating officer, was named to succeed Eisner as chief executive. He will assume his new role Oct. 1. and will co-lead the company with Eisner during the transition, Disney's board said.

He inherits the company as it continues an earnings recovery, opens a new theme park in Hong Kong, enjoys a ratings boost at its ailing ABC network and builds on success of its dominant ESPN cable network

From The Associated Press



Volunteer pilots train to disarm a potential hijacker during in a weapon retention class at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Brunswick, Ga.

Gun-in-the-cockpit program progress upsetting to pilots

BY LESLIE MILLER The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - While the pace of training and deployment of armed pilots on commercial flights has picked up, supporters of the program say the Bush administration still is making it unnecessarily difficult for crews to take guns into the cockpit.

Pilots monitoring the program estimate between 4,000 and 4,500 have been trained and deputized to carry guns since the Federal Flight Deck Officer program egan April 2003. That is about three times as many as a year ago, yet a fraction of the 95,000 pilots flying for U.S. airlines

Airline Pilots Security Alliance, a group formed to lobby for guns in the cocknit, said tens of thousands of his colleagues are interested in the program.

"We have an armed pilots program that's arming very few pisaid Mackett, who hasn't signed up because of the way the program is run. He said many oth-

ers won't join for the same reason. Mackett contends the Transportation Security Administration isn't moving to get substantially more pilots trained to carry guns because it has never really wanted the program.

TSA spokesman Mark Hatfield

chief David Stone fully backs the effort and that procedures have been changed to more quickly get pilots into the program.

"I've got a pipeline with a cou-ple of thousand applicants and we're running two full classes a week." Hatfield said. The TSA can train about 50 pilots per class

Last year, Congress failed to pass a bill that would speed the application and training process allow pilots to carry guns in holsters and let those among them with military or law enforcement backgrounds carry guns immedi-

ately.

Mackett said the pilots will try again this year

Report emphasizes the vulnerability of aviation security

By LARA JAKES JORDAN The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - The nation's aviation system remains vulnerable to attacks by al-Oaida and other terrorists who may be targeting noncommercial aircraft and helicopters, according to a government report.

But officials said the report by the Homeland Security Department and the FRI concludes that commercial airlines also remain susceptible to attack, despite billions of dollars worth of security investments. Moreover, members of al-Qaida are believed to be examining and testing U.S. security systems for weaknesses, officials

The confidential report, dated Feb. 25, reflects what officials have long said: that beefing up security in one sector would inevitably prompt terrorists to target other areas that might not be under the same level of scrutiny.

However, the report, drafts of which have been circulating since late last year, is the first to pull the intelligence together in a single package, officials said

It was distributed to state, local and private sector officials who deal with counterterrorism concerns, said Homeland Security spokesman Brian Roehrkasse.

"We have made dramatic im provements to security in all components of the aviation industry over the course of the past three vears." Roehrkasse said.

A counterterrorism official said helicopters were singled out as potential targets in intelligence that surfaced last August. That in-telligence also led Homeland Security to raise the terror alert level in Washington, New York and northern New Jersey to protect financial institutions there

More than \$12 billion has been spent on explosive detectors, armored cockpit doors, screeners, air marshals and other aviation security systems since the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks. President Bush has proposed

giving the Transportation Securi-ty Administration \$5.6 billion in 2006 — \$2 billion of which for airline passenger screening and \$1.45 billion for airline baggage

But a report by congressional investigators in December found that TSA "has primarily focused on strengthening the security of commercial aviation." That report noted that TSA doesn't understand the risks posed by small private planes, fails to issue meaningful threat information to general aviation airports and can't make sure charter airlines and flight schools comply with security regulations.

Officials said that the thousands of general aviation airports

— which host recreational planes, business jets, helicopters and other kinds of noncommercial air-— must all have security measures that are equivalent to TSA mandates at commercial air-

Former Democratic leader Tom Daschle joins Washington law firm BY CARSON WALKER Those issues include energy, Na-Daschle, who lost a re-election

The Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. - Former Senate Democratic leader Tom Daschle plans to put his 26 years of experience in Congress to work at a Washington, D.C., law firm as a public policy adviser.

hid in November to Republican John Thune, said he won't lobby for Alston & Bird LLP, but will advise its clients on topics with which he's familiar.

"I want to continue my involvement in the public policy issues that I care a great deal about. tive Americans health care international trade, agriculture and technology," he said Sunday in a telephone interview from his Washington home.

One of things he'll do is counsel clients on how to work through legal and regulatory hurdles in

Washington and internationally, he said

Daschle joins former Kansas Sen. Bob Dole, who is already in the company's legislative and public policy group. Dole, the 1996 Republican presidential nominee, said in a statement that he looks forward to working with

"Tom is the consummate public servant, and while we may have differed on some political issues, I look forward to working together at Alston & Bird, as we tap his unique knowledge of public policy to serve the firm's clients, Dole said.





Crackdown nets 103 members of Honduran gang

WASHINGTON - More than 100 alleged members of the violent Honduran street gang MS-13 have been arrested in a nationwide sween, authorities said Monday.

Using information from local and state law enforcement agencies. federal agents charged 103 members of the Mara Salvatrucha, or MS-13, gang with a range of criminal and immigration charges. The arrests came in the New York Washington Los Angeles Baltimore New-

ark, Miami and Dallas metropolitan areas over the last several weeks. Officials said MS-13 is one of the largest and most violent street gangs in the United States. The gang has carried out beheadings and grenade attacks in Central America and is known to hack its enemies with machetes in cities along the East Coast in the United States.

Post office finally reopens after anthrax mailings

HAMILTON, N.J. - The New Jersey post office that handled anthrax-laced letters reopened Monday morning, nearly 3½ years after the deadly mailings that further heightened the nation's fears in the weeks after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks.

The opening had more the air of a gala than a normal day at a post office. Officials were on hand with cake, and the low-slung building was decorated with balloons.

The post office was closed on Oct. 18, 2001, after NBC anchor Tom Brokaw, two U.S. senators and the offices of the New York Post received anthrax-laced letters that went through Hamilton.

From The Associated Press

BTK profile on, off target

Developing pre-arrest theories is not an exact science

BY DANA STRONGIN Knight Ridder/Tribune

WICHITA, Kan. — Criminal profilers. Wichita police. A psychic. BTK himself.

Since the serial killer first struck Wichita in 1974, a lot of people have shared theories about him: where he worked, his behaviors, his hobbies.

Now, after 31 years, a suspect has been arrested. Dennis Rader, charged with 10 BTK killings, has been in jail for two



Rader

pre-arrest theories about BTK match up to the man charged with the crimes? In some ways, yes. Police and oth-

weeks

Do

ers thought he might blend into the community. Rader, a Boy Scout leader and president of his church council, was a college-educated, working family man in Park City, Kan. In other ways, no. Police said

BTK had a lifetime fascination with trains. Rader's younger

brother Jeff said he was the train lover in the family, not Dennis.

The idea that BTK was a part of the community was daring back in the late 70s, said Richard La-Munyon, who was police chief from 1976 to 1989. It went against the general profile, the kind you see in made-for-TV movies: the serial killer as a loner, a man with no romantic prospects and an unsteady work history.

However, it wasn't exactly strange to suggest that BTK hung around Wichita State University, said Brian Withrow, an assistant professor of criminal justice at the university.

"They kept saying he was connected to WSU," he said. "Name five people in Wichita who ain't."

five people in Wichita who ain't."
Withrow said he couldn't think
of a case in which a profile directly led to the apprehension of a person.

Although profiles draw on experts, some of them scientists, it's a "very subjective" kind of science, he said.

The possibility that BTK could be someone's neighbor was why police released a detailed list of potential BTK traits late last year, Withrow said.

The November list was culled from the serial killer's communications, police said.

Police had no choice but to release the description and assume it was accurate, Withrow said.

"If they had decided to not release it, they would run the risk of when they did catch the guy, he would say, 'Look, I told you who I was. But you didn't release the information.'"

A Minneapolis, Minn., profiler said police should have released more information about BTK and the killings.

The sooner police release details about a homicide, the more likely they are to get useful tips from the public, said Pat Brown, who has assisted police elsewhere by creating criminal profiles.

"It's always kind of amusing to listen to individuals, especially people who aren't directly related to this investigation, make their forecast as to what kind of individual this is," LaMunyon said. "They don't have all the facts."

Someday we'll know more about BTK's background and what led him to kill, LaMunyon said. Any profiles developed during the investigation played only a small part in the case.

"You have to apply all of that knowledge — evidence, the victims — then you come up with a picture."



Judy Neal works on a will in her Cincinnati home in February. In the foreground is an example of an ethical will, a centuries-old practice of passing along values, beliefs and personal experiences to loved ones.

Ethical wills add human touch to estate planning

By LISA CORNWELL The Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Judy Neal hopes she instilled some of her values in her son. But just in case.

she wrote it down.

"Try to see both sides of a story," she wrote in her ethical will. "Look beyond the surface and the obvious. It took me a

will. "Look beyond the surface and the obvious. It took me a while to learn this."

The use of ethical wills — a cen-

turies-old practice of passing along beliefs, values and personal experiences to loved ones — has begun to re-emerge as catastrophic events underline the unpredictability of life and many see society as increasingly materialistic and transient.

The wills are not legally enforceable. But the founder of an elder law firm in Sarasota, Fla., said he suggests them to clients because they add more humanity to estate planning.

"When you focus strictly on transmitting wealth and property, it can make it a very cold and heartless process for everyone," said Ira Wiesner of Advocates in

Aging.
Organizations such as the
AARP, the American Society on
Aging, and the Spiritual Eldering
Institute, have included the topic
in their magazines and conferences. Spiritual counselors and

Aging, and the Spiritual Eutering Institute, have included the topic in their magazines and conferences. Spiritual counselors and health care specialists include it in courses, and financial advisers and estate attorneys discuss ethical wills with clients.

"People often feel invincible until they see cataclysmic events like 9/11 or the tsunami and realize that no one knows what will happen tomorrow and they better leave something to tell people who they were," said Karen Russell, founder and executive director of the Los Angeles-based National Grief Support Services Inc.

"Even soldiers in Iraq are realizing this and writing their own forms of ethical wills through letters telling their family what to remember about them if they don't make it home."

member about them if they don't make it home." Dr. Barry Baines, associate medical director of Hospice of the Twin Cities, said the 75 hits or so daily on an ethical will Web site he began in 1999 jumped after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks

and now average about 800.

Baines, author of "Ethical Wills: Putting your Values on Paper," said many contacting him are baby boomers who realize their parents' generation is disappearing and that they also are aging.

"More and more of them are deciding that they want and need to leave behind more than just money and possessions," the Minneapolis doctor said.

While anyone can jot down their thoughts for family and friends, the formalized ethical wills offer a document more likely to be preserved through the

In Neal's case, her parents left no permanent record of their values and beliefs that could be passed on to future generations.

"There are so many things I won't ever know about their thoughts and experiences," said Neal, 58. "I hope that my son has picked up some of my values and beliefs through the years, but I also want his children and their children to know who I was."

Study challenges 'adult time for adult crime' policies for youths

BY GREG SUKIENNIK

The Associated Press

BOSTON — Treating offenders under the age of 18 as adults in the criminal justice system makes it more likely they will re-offend when they emerge from prison, according to a national study of youthful offender laws.

The Coalition for Juvenile Justice, in a study titled "Childhood on Trial," said "adult time for adult crime" policies have failed. It hopes to restore the authority

of juvenile court judges to determine if juveniles should be tried as adults and to hold the boundary between childhood and adulthood at age 18.

The group said the judicial system's responsibilities are to give young offenders opportunities to make positive changes and set things right, while meting out punishment fairly.

"One way to do so is to ensure that juvenile offenders are provided with the rehabilitative services and resources generally available in the juvenile justice system and to reserve the use of adult sanctions for those older, chronic juvenile offenders for whom the juvenile courts resources have been exercised and exhausted." In 13 states, defendants over the age of 17 are sent into the adult criminal justice system for any offense.

The study said that in states with large numbers of youths in adult prisons, those youths are more likely to re-offend when they emerge from prison. It said teenagers in adult prisons are more vulnerable to adult criminals and are often mentored by powerful immates, resulting in them being released as hardened, angry and possessing increased criminal skills.

The study was scheduled to be released Monday at Northeastern University

Recent arrests surprise mobsters, NYPD

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — It's getting harder to tell the cops from the crooks around here.

Imagine the surprise of 32 mobsters arrested this week, including the head of the Gambino family, only to discover their brother-in-firearms of the last two years was an undercover FBI agent doing an Al Pacino impersonation.

And imagine the disgust of New York police officials when a pair of retired detectives were arrested in an Italian restaurant on the Las Vegas strip, charged as mob hitmen responsible for eight murders and a failed plot to kill turncoat Sammy "The Bull" Gravano. The stunning mob stories broke

on consecutive days in New York, still the center of the Mafia universe and home to five of its crime families. As details emerged, both tales assumed a Hollywood patims: the FBI agent was right out of "Donnie Brasco," while one of the two detectives had a bit part in "Goodfellas."

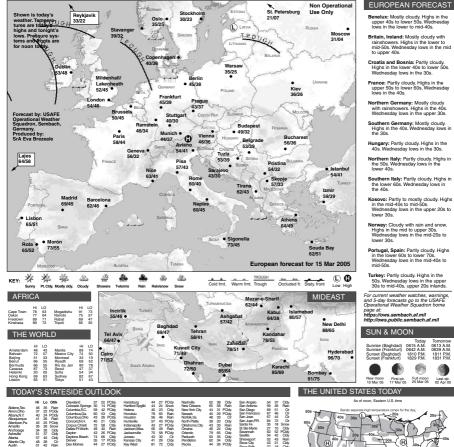
The Brasco sequel came 24 years after FBI agent Joe Pistone, in the first case of its kind, inflitrated the Bonanno family. Like Pistone, the unidentified agent accepted by the once-mighty Gambino family was uniquely qualified.

More importantly to his associates in the Gambino family, the 50-something mob wannabe could deliver stolen watches, jewelry, plasma televisions. It wasn't until last Wednesday, when federal authorities arrested 32 of them, that the mostsers discovered his

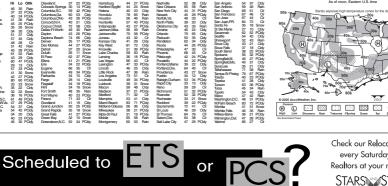
"They were all shocked," said Matt Heron, the New York-based FBI official who ran the two-year undercover operation.

true affiliation

Although the agent remains unidentified, FBI officials described him as a law enforcement veteran and a family man, with undercover experience and unfailing instincts.







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SAMERS, Edutorics, Code, Code,

Sharon Olson, News Brian Bowers, Features Sean Moores, Sports

Addresses

U.S. MAIL: Unit 29480. APO AE 0921 INTERNATIONAL MAIL - Poetforb 1330 64345 Grischeim

Germany FAX: DSN 349-8416; civ. (+49) (0) 6155/601416

om. (+1) (zuz) /61-0945. Email-mazzarellad@stripes.osd.mil OMBUDSMAN: be Ulagaro. Send comments to: Ombudsman, and Stripes, 529 14th St. NW, Suite 350, Washington, 20045-1301. Phone civilian (+1) (401) 364-6032, (+1) (401) 364-8696; ments to Ombudemen Stan or e-mail: ombudsman@stripes.osd.mil

How to call us

Editor: DSN 349-8237; civ. (+49) (0) 6155/601237 Letters: DSN 349-8400; civ. (+49) (0) 6155/601400 Sports: DSN 349-8400; civ. (+49) (0) 6155/601400 Sports: DSN 349-8425; civ. (+49) (0) 6155/601225 Circulation: DSN 349-835/43; civ. (+49) (0) 6155/601335/443.

News Bureaus

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udyj@mail.estripes.osd.mil SPAIN

Trun

Rota: Scott Schonauer, PSC 819, Box 1, FPO AE 09645; tel. DSN
727-1099 or civ. (+34) (956) 82-1099; fax DSN 727-1034 or
civ. (+34) (956) 82-1034 crv. (+34) (956) 82-1034 e-mail: schonauers@mail.estripes.osd.mil

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UNITED KINGDOM

RAF Mildenhall: On Inson, Building 465 ECSS-UK, RAF Mildenhall.
APO AE 09459; tel. DSN 238-4888 or civ. (+44) (0) 1638/54488; fax civ. (+44) (0) 1638/718013;

e-mail: jensenr@mail.estripes.osd.mil WASHINGTON D.C.

ureau editor: Patrick Dickson, 529 14th Street NW, Suite 350 ashington DC 20045-1301; tel. (+1) (202) 761-0859; e-ma

Washington DC 20045-1301; tel. (+1) (202) /61-0859; e-mail-dicksonp@stripes.osd.mll Lisa Burgess, tel civ. (+1) (703) 692-1875; Jon Anderson, tel (+1) (703) 692-1926; and Leo Shane, 529 14th Street NW, Sr 350, Washington DC 20045-1301; tel civ. (+1) (202) 761-1183; fax civ. (+1) (202) 761-0890; e-mail: burgessl@stripes.osd.mil; andersoni@stripes.osd.mil and shanel@stripes.osd.mil

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Women in combat arms

Brig. Gen. Anthony C. McAuliffe's reply of "Nuts!" could be appropriate to a demand of surrender to the political feminists surrounding an all-male Bastogne. Contemplating female enlistment into combat arms military occupational specialties cannot be compared to entrance to an all-male tree fort, or to women's suffrage or to denial in climbing the corporate ladder. It's assumed that since female soldiers are under fire while serving in Iraq, they must be ready for combat arms.

The contemporary operational environment in which we are waging war in Iraq is the reason female soldiers are respond ing under fire. The argument that since a woman can shoot a weapon and can be used in a low-intensity conflict operation such as cordon-and-search (assisting in female search) is not a legitimate premise for women to be inserted into combat arms. Justification cannot be argued, just as one cannot say: "Women play football; women play NFL."

Premeditated, in-your-face killing is more complex. Combat arms is a cohesive and synchronized determination to close in on the enemy in order to kill them. The psychologies of women and men has been proved to conflict disastrously in this arena, and is the reality of our genders. We cannot jeopardize lives while experimenting with the concept of equality in the workforce. If total equality is to be contemplated in the Army, all women must complete the male Army physical fitness test standard Period

Combat units must have strict and concentrated cohesion to bring swift destruction; it doesn't need the added warfare, CA recruitment cannot be justified with emo tional political correctness. Draft or enlistment, we cannot liberalize the lethal reality of our combat arms with situational foreplay.

Sgt. 1st Class Philip Stouder Germany

Let women train for infantry

I was glad to see in the Feb. 2 column by Dan Thomasson, "Parties should unite to increase aid to war widows," that changes are being considered, but I'd like to call your attention to an often overlooked fact of life in our modern army - there are women in it! So, if a woman is killed, does her widower get anything? I quote Thomasson, "Plus there is a limited monthly sti-pend for wives." Just wives, Dan?

Which brings me to my second point: A male soldier, happily at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, not Iraq, as I am, sent a letter detailing his opinion of how women could not be in the infantry. Did he ever stop to consider that women are just written off and never even given a chance to train for the infantry alongside their male counterparts

I admit there are women who shouldn't or can't become infantry soldiers, but

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there are many men who can't hack it, ei-

When is our Army going to begin practicing the equality it so vigorously preaches to repressive Islamic dictatorships? How can we tell the Iraqis and Afghans to let their women have equal rights when ours don't? Why are the "good ole boys" so afraid to let women even try to become infantry or other combat arms soldiers?

Sgt. Molly Martin Forward Operating Base Warrior, Iraq

Cook answers infantry's call

In response to all the letters and articles that I have had the time to read since redeploving to Kuwait. I see that cooks are fre quently mentioned when talking about who is qualified for the Close Combat Badge, I understand that the new CCB should be given to those whose military occupational specialties are combat arms and who daily go out of the wire to specifically find and engage the enemy and protect coalition forces and local nationals.

But those of us without a job over here, thanks to the civilian contractors, had to be put to use somewhere. My platoon was made up of cooks, mechanics, fuelers and a few other guys and was attached to a tank company, that was also assuming the job of infantry. We conducted daily combat patrols, cordon and searches, and security. Almost no one complained about our new jobs and excitedly undertook our missions. We came in contact multiple times from roadside bombs, rocket-propelled grenades and small arms fire. We engaged and destroyed the enemy.

I need no badge to show off how I feel about what my soldiers and I did in Iraq the past year. Nothing has ever made me prouder in the military than telling a sol-dier to take the day off and him refusing to because he wanted to go out on patrol. Or when your chain of command tells your platoon that it will always be a part of the company because of the things we did and went through together. No badge or award will ever accomplish that.

The brotherhood and camaraderie that formed within the platoon and squads will last longer and mean more then any award that we could receive. As for this cook, I loved my new role so much that I'm reclassing to infantry, not for the badges but for the experience that you know only when you face the excitement and fear of the battlefield and live to tell your stories with your brothers after the fact.

Sot Christopher Greenfield En route home with the 1st Cavalry

'Doonesbury' should stay

This is in response to "Trudeau strip a 'piece of crap' " (letter, Feb. 28) in which the writer described "Doonesbury" as, let me get this right, "that left-wing-subcutaneous-slandering piece-of-crap comic by Trudeau." I assume that the right-wing comic Mallard Fillmore by Bruce Tinsley causes equal offense. All Stars and Stripes is doing is being fair and balanced.

The men and women of the military have a diverse set of views as evidenced. for example, by the recent debate over the separation of church and state in letters to the editor. Stars and Stripes provides a great service to all of us, and it is not the job of the paper to simply be a mouthpiece for certain political viewpoints.

As in any decent democracy, allowing for a free and open press is part of the mission in Iraq and Afghanistan. Maybe we should set the example by keeping our own publications free and open to divergent sets of views, even the comic strips. Lt. j.g. Seth Nye

Ragram Afghanistan

Think of this letter instead

To all U.S. servicemembers serving overseas: In response to those recent devastating letters you received from those silly, naive children ("GI baffled by letters from N.Y. 6th-graders," article, Feb. 24, Mideast edition; "Camp Casey GI baffled by letters from sixth-graders," Europe edition), please know that this is not the majority attitude of the American people I know, love and respect. My husband, a New York City firefighter, and I think and know that you - all of you - are the United States' biggest, bravest and finest heroes. I can't lie, I want you all home happy and healthy with your loved ones. But we also know how desperately you are needed overseas and we support and pray for you every day.

Please try to see that these children are not the culprits of this blasphemy; they were obviously coached by their adult parents whose stupid, uneducated attitudes poisoned their children's minds. Just try and comfort yourselves with

this small prayer, when you put your young, brave minds to sleep at night: Forgive them, Lord, for they know not what they say

God bless all of you

Elisa Sweeney New York

By GARRY TRUDEAU

Doonesbury









OPINION

Wars take turns, and reactions affect results

The Providence (R I) Journal

ike the tides, the fortunes of war tend to ebb and flow over the course of a conflict. How a nation deals with the setbacks that inevitably occur in war tells much about that nation's people and whether they have what it takes to prevail over a determined enemy.

The Battle of the Bulge, in World War II, and the 1968 communist Tet offensive, in Vietnam, illustrate how two different generations of Americans dealt with such sethacks

As Christmas 1944 approached in Europe, the Allies were generally optimistic. American forces had reached the German border, and speculation about how long the war would last was a popular pas-

On the morning of Dec. 16, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, the su-preme commander of the Western Allies in Europe, received a letter from British Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery requesting permission to take Christmas leave. In the letter was a reminder from Montgomery of a bet made earlier that the war would be over by Christmas

The front running through Belgium's Ardennes Forest was a particularly quiet one.

The quiet was shattered on the same day that Eisenhower received this letter by a German attack that drove deep enough into the Allied lines to produce the "bulge" that gave the resulting battle its name. The New York Times called the sethack "the worst since the fall of the Philippines.

That characterization was no evaggeration. Overcoming the initial shock, the Allies eventually condefeated it. But doing so cost the Americans roughly 80,000 casual including 8,000 killed and 20,000 captured or missing

Much of the public's attention became focused on the Belgian town of Rastogne an important mad junction that the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division and other units held against heavy German pressure until relieved, on Dec. 26. When the American commander answered a German ultimatum to surrender with the terse reply "Nuts!," Bastogne became a symhal of heroic resistance

Perhaps as a result. Americans managed to maintain their faith in ultimate victory. The New York Times complained about the delayed release of news from the front, and noted command problems that had let the Germans achieve surprise — but it also cautioned Americans not to second-guess commanders on the spot while the battle continued.

The paper also raised the possibility that the German attack might even prove to be fortuitous by having offered the Allies the chance to inflict more damage on the Germans more quickly than would otherwise have been nossible. When the fighting ended, the Americans had no doubt that the Allies had won a decisive victory

Twenty-four years after the Battle of the Bulge, Americans reacted in a very different way to a surprise enemy attack that had some remarkable similarities to the German one of 1944. As the Vietnamese lunar New

Year celebration, called Tet, approached in 1968, the overall situation appeared to be calm. The communists had agreed to a truce and a large percentage of South Vietnamese soldiers were allowed to



GERARD F. FORKEN/Stars and Stripes South Vietnamese troops help a wounded buddy in a street fight near the presidential palace in Saigon on Feb. 3, 1968, during

the Tet Offensive

take leave. Earlier, however, Gen Earle Wheeler, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, told a Detroit audience that although steady progress was being made in Vietnam, the communists might still try something "similar to the desperate effort of the Germans in the Battle of the Bulge

On Jan. 31, 1968, the Viet Cong and their North Vietnamese allies did just what Wheeler had feared by launching a series of attacks on cities throughout Vietnam. Overcoming the shock of having been caught off guard, South Vietnamese and allied forces recovered and went on the offensive. Much of the world's attention became riveted on a group of U.S. Marines and Vietnamese rangers who were besieged in an isolated outpost near



Two U.S. soldiers in the snow and dirt east of Bastogne, Belgium, man .50-caliber machine guns as they keep an eye out for German troops during the Battle of the Bulge in January 1945.

the Laotian border named Khe Sanh

Yet instead of being regarded as a heroic stand, as Bastogne had been. Khe Sanh was characterized by most of the media as a military disaster caused by bad judgment. Interminable comparisons made to the 1954 French defeat at a similar outnost at Dien Rien Phu and every effort was made to cast the battle in a bad light.

Second-guessing by the media was rampant and often wrong. Peter Braestrup, Saigon bureau chief for The Washington Post during Tet, later noted, "Rarely has contemporary crisis-iournalism turned out, in retrospect, to have veered so widely from reality."

In reality, the communists suffered a decisive defeat. They failed to achieve any of their military or political goals, and the fighting destroyed whatever remained of the Viet Cong — forcing the communists to rely increasingly on regular forces from North Vietnam.

But despite that reality, many Americans came to see Tet as a de feat that produced a corresponding loss of support for the war. The cause for that misperception remains the subject of debate, but it raises an important question for When a sethack occurs in the

war on terrorism - and such a setback is almost inevitable — will Americans react as they did in 1944, or as they did in 1968?

Marine Col. Theodore L. Gatchel (re-tired) is a military historian and profes-sor of operations at the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, R.I. The views here are his own and do not necessarily reflect those of the college, the Navy or the Defense Department.

Congress must ensure bill isn't morally bankrupt

BY DALE MCFEATTERS

Scripps Howard

he bankruptcy bill that just passed the Senate and is assured of House passage is being described as "the most sweeping" and "most significant change" in bankruptcy laws in 27 years and as a political victory for President Bush A political victory for Bush and the cred-

it-card and banking industries, yes. But as for "sweeping" and "significant," only time will tell

A preliminary glance at the final product suggests that it is considerably more modest than "sweeping." And how controversial could a measure be that passed the fractious Senate 74-25? It would affect, according to bankruptcy experts, somewhere between 30,000 and 210,000 people a year. largely by forcing them to opt for Chapter 13 bankruptcy, where some repayment is required, rather than Chapter 7, which erases debts altogether. And it does underscore a fundamental commercial principle that good-faith loans should be repaid. The terms of the bill are hardly Dicken-

sian. In essence, bankruptcy filers with incomes above their state's median income and with the wherewithal that a judge determines would allow them to repay \$100 a month over five years - a total of \$6,000 would have to file under Chapter 13.

The bill also tightens a loophole that allowed potential bankrupts to shield their assets by buying extravagant homes in states like Florida and Texas. The "homestead ex-

emption" has been tightened to \$125,000 for property bought within 30 months of filing. e bill shields retirement benefits up to

\$1 million, but it also ordains that child sup-

port, alimony, student loans and most tax obligations cannot be wiped out by filing for bankruptcy There is a large loophole for residents of

states that sanction asset-protection trusts, trusts shielded from the bankruptcy laws set up by people who have some expectation of being sued, such as doctors, but increasingly by executives wary of the new corporate liability laws. ...

Once having made this bankruptcy bill law, Congress has an obligation of its own. Lawmakers must be vigilant to see that the act is not an insurance policy for reckless lenders. And while Congress can't do much about [some causes of bankruptcy, such as] divorce or job loss, it can try to ensure that [another cause], severe illness, is not an automatic economic catastrophe for low- and middle-income families.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



Special treatment

AR LITTLE ROCK —
Patients traveling to Arkansas for medical treatment will receive assistance under a program announced at the Little Rock National Airport. The patients will be provided with language translation if they need it, as well as help with baggage and transportation to hotels and hospitals, officials said.

Kindergarten optional

NH CONCORD — The state Board of Education dropped a plan to require all school districts to offer kindergarten by 2007. Lawmakers said the rule would usurp their authority and force a state pro gram on local districts. New Hampshire is the last state without universal kindergarten; about 15 communities don't offer it

Limiting cold medicine

MN ST. PAUL — The Minneso-ta Senate unanimously passed a bill restricting the sale of cold medicines containing ingredi-ents used to make methamphetamine

The bill would require Sudafed and Actifed to be kept behind pharmacy counters.

Customers would have to sign for the drugs and would be allowed to buy only two packages at a time.

Fishing-season dispute

FL MADEIRA BEACH — Friends and family of a missing commercial fisherman say a two-week gap between the seasons for amberjack and grouper created an atmosphere in which fishermen felt a need to take more risks

Friends say the restrictions cost Michael Costello and a crewman their lives. Restrictions are aimed at replenishing dwindling stocks in the Gulf of Mexico.

Obscenity case dropped

KS ABILENE — An obscenity case brought against the Lion's Den Adult Superstore has been dismissed for technical rea-sons. A Dickinson County grand returned a 29-count indictment alleging the store promoted obscenity, but a judge ruled the petition was improperly filled out.

New bishop named

BURLINGTON — Monsignor Salvatore Matano, a longtime Rhode Island priest who has worked the last four years at the Vatican's Washington office was selected by Pope John Paul II to be Vermont's new bishop

He will take over in August.

Budget unbalanced

WA OLYMPIA — Some state lawmakers want to borrow against future payments from a tobacco settlement to help balance the budget. Gov. Christine Gregoire, who negotiated the deal when she was attorney general, is against that

The settlement is expected to bring the state \$4 billion over the next 25 years for health services.

Boaters sue state

HONOLULU — An organization of boaters who faced eviction from the Ala Wai Harbor



ment of rat poison. Shaken baby bill

HOUSTON - The deaths of four Texas infants within one week could intensify efforts to approve legislation to educate parents about

shaken baby syndrome. Police in Houston are investigating the deaths of an 8-month-old girl, a 5-month old boy and a 7-month-old boy. Investigators think their injuries may stem from being shaken aggressively.

In Austin, the father of a 5-month-old boy who died was arrested after being accused of shaking the child to death

I think we are going to continue, unfortunately, to have this probsaid state Sen. Eddie Lucio Jr D. Brownsville "But the more we educate people, the more we train people to do the right thing with their child as they leave the hospital, obviously the better it will

Jailer plays a prank

AR PARAGOULD — A jailer gave a layative to an inmate who had requested cold medicine. then taunted the man as he suffered severe diarrhea authorities

Johnnie Dallas Pruett, 27, was fired and charged with battery in the March 1 incident involving 19-year-old Darryl R. Bartlett.

Sheriff's Capt. Jamie Martin said after Bartlett asked for cold medicine, Pruett brought him three pink pills and a cup of water. The inmate took the pills, and Pruett began laughing and showed him a box of over-the-counter laxative pills.

Bartlett said that after 90 minutes, he developed severe stomach pains, vomited and had severe diarrhea He said Pruett taunted him throughout the night and asked if he needed a diaper.

Film scene nearly deadly

GA SAVANNAH — A college student was seriously injured while acting out a hanging for a film project.

Daryl Goins and other students were making a movie for class at his home. The script had been approved by a professor, but Goins, 20, allegedly decided to change the

"There was a suicide scene at the end, and he changed the technique," Geoffrey Jowett, dean of students for Savannah College of Art and Design, told the Savannah Morning News. "It was a hanging, an accident based on the stunt

Details were sketchy, but during the scene Goins somehow hit his head. Jowett said other students gave him CPR. He was hospitalized in serious condition.

Police have the video and are investigating. The school is reviewing whether to pursue disciplinary action.

Goins was enrolled in an Introduction to Video class. Students at the college are required to take a safety course before filming, sign a contract confirming they have read all safety regulations and have scripts approved by a faculty member



Becoming an American Nguyen Ngo, of Vietnam, awaits the start of a swearing-in ceremony at the Bush presidential library in College Station, Texas. Nearly 50 U.S. servicemembers were sworn in as II.S. citizane



Wil Flores, right, and Belisario Colorful block party Loza shop at one of the many ndors at the annual "Calle Ocho" block party in the Little Havana area



Paige, a 10-year-old bald A fine, feathered friend eagle, poses for visitors, in background from left, Debbie LaFreniere and Sharon Bostrom at the Florida Audubon Birds of Prey Center in Maitland, Fla. The center is celebrating its 25th year with an open house.



AMERICAN

ROUNDUP

The mariners who live aboard

their vessels allege they were im-properly evicted from the

short-term boat slins at the harbor

under a proposed deal between the

state and the Waikiki Yacht Club.

The group calls itself the "Dis-placed Boaters of Ala Wai Har-

Group spokesman Jud Lohmey-

er said he knew the boat slips were

not permanent, but he believes the

tice to move.

In February, the state gave

about a dozen boaters three days to

vacate their slips. Eight of the boat-

ers have sued seeking to stay put.

and a judge issued a preliminary in-

junction stopping the evictions

NEW YORK — The city

never-ending battle against rats: a

federally funded institute to teach the craft of rodent eradication.

Pest Control Academy were an-

nounced in a hearing before the

City Council's health committee

The academy will train extermina-

tors from the Health Department

and other city agencies, said Edgar Butts, an assistant Health Depart-

A three-year, \$600,000 grant

ment commissioner.

Plans for the Rodent Integrated

has a new weapon in its

until the case is resolved

City opens rat school

should have given more no-

is suing the state

state

Nap time

One of Jeff King's dogs takes a rest during the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race at the Gravling, Alaska, checkpoint.

t Edition · March 15, 2005



Fire-breather

| Daniel Echeverria, 44, poses next to his fire-breathing motorcycle in Daytona Beach, Fla. Echeverria shigh fire-breathing to hike named Excalibur by hand in his barn in Argentina. Echeverria shipped his creation to Florida for Bike Week.



Luck 0' the Irish Melanie Weimer of Scottsdale, Pa.,
dresses as a leprechaum while
marching in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in downtown Pittsburgh.



Snow fun
Terry Humphrey reads a
newspaper as he waits outside
amid falling snow for Ron's Barber
Shop to open for business in
Bellingham. Mass.



Enjoying spring break

Crystal Stevenson, 22, from the University of Indiana, relaxes on the beach at South Padre Island, Texas, while Tony Bickenstaff, such that South Padre Island, Texas, while Tony Bickenstaff, and the South Padre Island, Texas, while Tony Bickenstaff, such that South Padre Island, Texas, such that South Padre Island, Texas

Guilty plea in murder

CAMDEN — A second man pleaded guilty to the murder of a woman who was abducted from a park-and-ride lot on her way home from work in 2001. Marcus Toliver, 25, admitted killing Christine Ebert, 27, an accountant who lived in Washington Township and worked in Philadelphia. He agreed to the same 43-year prison sentence faced by Ryshaone Thomas, 26, who pleaded guilty in January.

More training for nurses

AR LITTLE ROCK — University of Arkansas athletic director Frank Broyles persuaded legislators to back a bill that would expand training for certified nurses aides in caring for Abreimer's patients. The Senate committee endorsed the measure, which has passed in the House. Broyles told the panel of his grief during the years he cared for his wife, Barbara, who died last fall after bartling Abrheimer's.

Hospital closing

PAILADELPHIA — Women's Medical Hospital in
Philadelphia is closing its doors.
There isn't enough patient revenue
to support and maintain the operation of the 50-bed acute-care facility, said Ir. Nancy Pickering, chief
secucitive officer. In recent year,
the 500 employees endured hospital name changes, cutbacks, the collapse of the Allegheny Health System in 1998 and the threatened closure by the former owner, Tenet
Healthcare.

Art law repealed

SD PIERRE — A 16-year-old law requiring state funding for works of art in new public buildings and those being remodeled will be repealed under legislation signed by Gov. Mike Rounds. The 1989 law said the Legislature must set aside an art allowance equal to 1 percent of the cost of those projects. The stipulation was never followed.

End of streetcar line?

was SEATTLE — The city may shut down its waterfront streetcar line so the Seattle Art Museum can build a sculpture park at the north end of the line where its maintenance barn is located. The streetcar is a popular tourist attraction that carries 400,000 people a year. It runs between Myrtle Edwards Park and Pioneer Souard Park and Pioneer Souards Park and Pioneer Souards.

City Council recall

McALESTER — Petitions seeking the recall of City Council members Michael Dawk-ins and Louis Smitherman were turned in to the city clerk. They served on the council when contracts and budgets with leave buy-back provisions for former City Manager Randy Green were approved. Green received \$579,500 for unused leave over a five-year period. The FBI is investigating the case.

Backup budget

IN MASHVILLE — A backup budget plan released by Gov. Phil Bredesen would either slash education spending by \$268 million or end pharmacy benefits for people in the state public health care program. The alternative budget is on the table in case Bredesen's primary plan, which presupposes savings through cuts in the TennCare program, is held up in court.

Wrong number

MADISON — When the state's Division of Motor Vehicles sent notices to 25,000 motorists to renew their registration, they made a tiny mistake.

The telephone number printed on the postcards was one digit off and instead connected callers to "the nation's most informative psychic connection service, helping you with love, money, health and romantic encounters."

The Division of Motor Vehicles spent \$1,500 sending letters to truckers after someone called about the typo, said Jane Zarada, director of the state Bureau of Vehicle Services

Golden Gate suicides

SAN FRANCISCO — A proposal to study a suicide barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge is expected to get the go-ahead despite mixed reactions from the public and serious questions over fi-

The 19 bridge district directors will be asked to take the first step and commit \$2 million toward environmental studies and preliminary design work.

In addition to that \$2 million, \$15 million to \$25 million will be needed to build a barrier, so the money question will probably be a major part of the discussion.

An estimated 1,300 people have jumped from the bridge to their deaths since it was built in 1937, giving the West's signature span additional renown as the top suicide landmark in the world.

Fortunate to be alive

TN TOWNSEND — Four college freshmen on a spring-break excursion to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park said that they felt lucky to be alive after they were snowed in at a shelter on the Appalachian Trail.

Matthew Schultz, 19, Ivan Saldarriaga, 19, Ryne McCall, 19, and Bryan Hendrick, 19, were rescued by park rangers and a National Guard helicopter after spending two wet, freezing nights huddled in a trail shelter.

Schultz was airlifted to the University of Tennessee Medical Center in Knoxville as a precautionary measure after falling victim to hypothermia. His three companions walked off the trail a few hours later with words of warning for anyone planning a trip into the mountains.

"We weren't prepared," Hendrick said. "We may have done a few things right, but we did a lot of things wrong. We were lucky."

Stories and photos from wire services

FACES

No strings attached

Even with no guitar, British rock band Keane is winning devoted fans on both sides of the pond

LEVERY guitar sound has been

done to death. The piano is a

blank canvas, And we've

been experimenting with

pedals and amps to mess

things up a bit. It's

really exciting. 77

BY ROSS RAIHALA Knight Ridder Newspapers

he British trio Keane has experienced the sort of year most young bands would kill for, selling millions of records in Europe, winning two Brit Awards (England's answer to the Grammys) and performing to sellout crowds

around the world But what made the group, which seems set to reach Coldplay-like heights of fame, really nervous? Appear-ing on "Saturday Night Live" last month alongside guest host Paris Hilton.

"It was scary, probably the most nerve-wracking thing we've had to do," said lead singer Tom Chaplin during a phone in-terview from Boston.

"After a year of tour ing, we're used to playing shows. But with something like that, the expectation is so great. The show is an institution in the States

Keane lived up to the challenge and won over a whole new audience of fans in the process, play-

ing their insanely melodic singles "Everybody's Changing" and "Somewhere Only We Know," a song that got its first blush of exposure in a Victoria's Secret commercial Soon after the "SNL" performance, Keane's debut

disc, "Hopes and Fears," re-entered the Billboard Top 100, with sales headed toward the million mark. But what about the really important stuff? What's Paris Hilton like?

"She was cool," said Chaplin. "Weirdly enough, she seemed a lot more intelligent and down to earth than she comes across."

It's a polite, mannered answer from a polite, mannered band. "Hopes and Fears" is filled with bright choruses, hummable melodies and an overall sense of nice that has earned Keane plenty of suspicious glances from rock's credibility police

And then there's Keane's lead guitarist. Or, more ac-

curately, the lack of one.
The band formed in 1997 and kicked around unsuc cessfully for years. In 2002, they lost their guitar play cessituity for years. In 2002, may lost meir guiar piay-er and figured they'd have a go without a six-string. "It really was incredibly liberating," Chaplin said. "It forced us to try and change things up a bit. And we've found we can get the songs across in a much

more clear way that suits the feel of the music much

Tim Rice-Oxley's pianos and synthesizers form the backbone of Keane's music, with live drummer Richard Hughes keeping the songs rooted in rock, rather than dance, music. The pared-back instrumentation

also focuses attention on Chaplin's angelic, lilting vo-"Every guitar sound has been done to death," Chaplin said. "The piano is a blank canvas. And we've been experimenting with pedals and amps to mess things up a bit. It's

really exciting."
While Keane has already connected American audi-

ences, they're not content to remain a passing fancy in this country.

"Hopes and Fears" produced four hit singles in England, and they're,

ahem, keen to replicate that success here. Chaplin said his band plans to spend much of the year touring the

"Whatever band you talk about, like U2 or Radiohead, there's an electricity about what they do," Chaplin said.

Tom Chaplin

Lead singer

"They have songs that re-ally connect with people and give them a true emotional experience. We aspire to that, and we're willing to put in the time

British rock group Keane has made an impact on the American music charts after appearing on "Saturday Night Live." Lead singer Tom Chaplin, right, said appearing on "SNL" was "nerve-wracking."

Sampras, wife expecting second child

Former tennis star Pete Sampras and his wife are exnecting a second child.

Sampras and actress Bridgette Wilson-Sampras are due to have the child this fall, their publicist, Deborah Grimes, said in a statement The couple married in September 2000. Their son, Chris-

tian Sampras, is 2 In 1990, Sampras beat rival Andre Agassi in the final to

become, at 19, the youngest champion in tournament histo-Sampras retired from the tournament circuit after beating Agassi at the 2002 U.S. Open. Then 31, Sampras be-

came the tournament's oldest winner since 1970

Brooks takes care of his fan

One Garth Brooks fan who spent \$1,200 to buy a guitar signed by the country singer — only to find out it was a fake — has received an authentic signature.

Toby Bradley, 34, a long-haul trucker, put the guitar up for auction on eBay in January hoping to raise \$50,000 for

victims of the South Asian tsunami.

Brooks' attorney saw the eBay listing and asked Bradley to send it to him so the signature could be verified. It turned out to be fake, but Brooks signed the guitar and "I appreciate that they made it authentic," Bradley said

negger in 2003

in a telephone interview with the Yakima Herald-Repub-He said he was disappointed that he had not talked di-

rectly to Brooks, but still thinks Brooks is the greatest entertainer of all time

Perlman to pay fine for contribution

Actress Rhea Perlman has agreed to a fine against the DeVito Family Trust for failing to file a major donor report on a \$10,000 contribution to Californians for Schwarze-

The state's Fair Political Practices Commission said it would fine the trust \$400 for failing to disclose political donations during the 2003 gubernatorial recall campaign that put Ar-

nold Schwarzenegger in office.

Perlman, who is married to actor and director Danny DeVito, agreed to the fine in January on behalf of the



Perlman could not be reached for comment. Stories and photos from The Associated Pres-

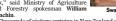


lion Dollar Baby," is going toe-to-toe with New Zealand authorities over a \$150 fine for bringing

fruit into the country, local media reported Sunday Swank was fined in January for fail-

ing to declare an apple and an orange in her luggage when she arrived at Auckland International Airport, The Sunday Star-Times newspaper reported "It's a pretty standard practice to

issue an instant fine for a biosecurity said Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry spokesman William Minchin



Thousands of visitors arriving in New Zealand each year are fined on the spot for not declaring products such as fruit, which cannot be imported into New Zealand, and hundreds contest the fines, Minchin said.

New Zealand is largely free of pests, which cause billions of dollars in damage to crops and livestock in other parts of the world and has strict quarantine guidelines. Swank has instructed lawyers to appear in court next week to contest the fine, the paper reported

X-ray system holds promise for shuttle safety

BY PHIL LONG

Knight Ridder Newspapers

MIAMI — Two University of Florida researchers were working on ways to use their X-ray system to find cracks and corrosion in airplanes and find abandoned land mines when a NASA contractor asked them if the device might help make space shuttles safer.

They tinkered with the machine and decided it could.

Ed Dugan, a nuclear engineering professor, and Alan Jacobs, who retired from the same job 18 months ago, patented an X-ray imaging process that can show tiny hidden defects in the foam insulation that covers the giant, orange external shuttle fuel tank.

A suitcase-sized chunk of that foam broke off of the tank attached to the shuttle Columbia on Jan. 16, 2003, gouging a hole

Machine can detect defects in foam insulation

in the leading edge of the orbiter's wing as it climbed into space.

Sixteen days later, as Columbia streaked through the skies 40 miles above Texas on its way home, super-hot gases poured into the hole, destroying the wing and causing the ship to break up. All seven astronauts aboard were killed.

Dugan and Jacobs hope their work will

help prevent future disasters.
"That's a very satisfying accomplishment," said Dugan, 58. "Any time you can develop something that can save lives, it is

exciting."

"Anybody in my generation ... would want to be a part of the safe exploration of

space," added Jacobs, 72.

Dugan and Jacobs work with "backscat-

ter" X-rays, developed for use when it's impossible to place film behind an object as with the shuttle tanks.

In backscatter, photons are scattered or reflected from the target and recorded on sensors. Dugan and Jacobs developed a computer-driven process that can locate even the smallest of voids and tiny cracks in composite material and metal on airplanes.

The researchers had trained their technology on abandoned land mines world-wide. In tests sponsored by the Army, the process was able to clearly distinguish land mines from other buried objects by revealing small empty spaces unique to bur-

Lockheed Martin Corp. learned of Dugan and Jacobs' work on land mines and wondered if it might apply to shuttle foam, explained Warren Ussery, a team leader at Lockheed Martin's Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans, where the

external tanks are manufactured.

Most of the foam on the tanks is about an inch thick and is applied by robots. Dugan and Jacobs' system is used on smaller areas of the tank with thicker foam that's

applied manually.

Lockheed Martin also examines those areas with a similar process called tetrahertz imaging, using every high-frequency radio waves that reflect off the aluminum trank. Examination with both machines showed no defects in the foam for the shutuled for launch between May 13 and June 3. It will be the first shuttle to return to flight since Columbia.

Lockheed Martin has bought four of the X-ray machines, and NASA has bought one.



Nicole Hines of Chariton, Iowa, pats the head of her daughter, Amber Vairo, in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at University Hospitals on March 3 in Iowa City, Iowa.

Smallest infant to undergo robotic surgery recovering

BY TODD DVORAK

The Associated Press

IOWA CITY, Iowa — Amber Vairo has grown

two inches and gained nearly a pound, and the three tiny scars on her belly have all but vanished — along with any doubts she'd survive a complex surgery to fix a life-threatening condition.

Last month, at just 5.6-pounds and six days after birth, Amber became the smallest patient in the world to undergo robotic surgery of any kind, according to her doctors at the University of Iowa Hospital and Clinics.

She was born with a hole in her diaphragm, the abdominal muscle that is critical to breathing and forms a wall between the chest and abdomen.

The condition, called congenital diaphragmatic hernia, can be fatal because the hole allows the intestines to migrate into the chest, putting pressure on the heart, lungs and spleen that can stunt organ growth or shut them down altogether.

"All signs are that she is recovering and will be just fine," said Amber's mother, Nicole Hines, who brought the infant home for the first time last week.

"She is gaining about an ounce a day and eating every two or three hours. It was all very stressful for a while. But I'm very glad with the way things

So are doctors.

The little girl suffered from a particular type of congenital diaphragmatic hernia, according to Dr. John Meehan, who led Amber's surgical team. Known as a Bochdalek hernia, it affects about one in 3000 babies and has a 25 percent mortality rate, Meehan said.

Other children's hospitals have used robotics to fix diaphragm hernias, but those cases involved older patients with a different kind of hernia, hospital officials said.

tal officials said.

Typically, surgeons use laparoscopic methods in such cases, extending their reach through tiny incisions with thin, long rods.

But the rods are inflexible and allow little range of motion.

In Amber's operation, surgeons made three incisions, each no wider than the diameter of a ballpoint pen. Two provided a pathway for the robotic arms; the third for a pair of cameras providing a three-dimensional view.

"Was this life saving? Yes," Meehan said. "But I think what is also interesting is this is a new way of treating a severe medical problems in newborns. We didn't invent a new operation here, but just used a different technique to get it done."

Micro-radios, glue help scientist keep track of devastating crickets

BY VALERIE BAUMAN The Associated Press

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — Armed with a glue gun and radio transmitters the size of a penny, a University of North Carolina scientist is trying to stop mass insect migrations that devastate ranches in the mountain West.

Mormon crickets, also known as flightless katydids, travel in massive packs, devouring all surrounding terrain as they move.

Packs of the bugs can cover more than a mile a day and devastate crops

Scientists are trying to identify patterns the crickets follow so they can kill them or divert their paths with small distributions of pesticide, rather than the blanket applications now used against the pests. Patrick D. Lorch, a postdoctoral fellow in biology at UNC-Chap

al fellow in biology at UNC-Chapel Hill, is among three scientists studying the crickets' travels.

Gregory A. Sword, a research ecologist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agriculture Research Service, and Darryl T. Gwynne, a biology professor at the University of Toronto at Mississauga— do their research by gluing tiny radio transmitters to the backs of crickets, and then tracking the signals they emit as they travel.

The researchers spend weeks the field each summer, usually between Utah and Colorado. Last June, the team spent two-and-ahalf weeks working near Utah's Dinosaur National Monument. Their research, in its third year, is funded by the Agriculture DeTo understand why the insects travel in packs that can stretch several miles wide and 10 miles in length, the scientists separate individual crickets from the mass. Then they give transmitters — each weighing less than half a gram — to the backs of

their selected critters.

When separated, their research found, 50 to 60 percent of the crickets were killed by predators within two days. That led to the conclusion that pack travel is a survival mechanism for the crickets, a finding that could be applied all mass migrating animals and insects, from locusts to wildebeests Lorrb said

Although the theory that mass migrations help protect animals from predators has been proposed before. Lorch said this study is the first to quantify the benefits of eventually allows Lorch and his colleagues to predict migration patterns, the information could aid farmers in protecting crops and could ultimately reduce the cost of the country, Lorch said. "Colorado, Utah, Wyoming and

"Colorado, Utah, Wyoming and New Mexico spend on the order of millions of dollars to try and stop these things," Lorch said. Farmers and the government

rarmers and the government now combat the crickets by mixing chemicals with oats and wheat germ and spreading the material over a large area. The process has bad side ef-

The process has bad side effects, as the pesticide kills all insects that ingest it, which can hurt the food chain. The chemicals also can get into water supplies, causing additional environmental damage.



A female Mormon cricket wears a 0.4 gram radio transmitter in June 2004, in Utah near Dinosaur National Monument.

Horoscope

In these final days of the sun's visit in Pisces, a solar cycle through the zodiac ends. The wrapping-up process causes us to account for the good, bad and ugly of the last 12 months. Flashes of extreme emotion

swing the mood like a wild pendulum. As Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "Our life is March weather, savage and serene in one hour.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 15). You're destined for success. This year proves to you that your hard work and wishing have all been for a purpose. Surpris-ing turns in the next 10 weeks cause you to act quickly or miss out. Getting enough sleep, food and exercise allows you to stay mentally and physically nimble. Love requires sacrifice in May. Lucky signs are

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're usually goal-oriented, so

Leo and Taurus

days like today, when you feel sort of lost and restless, are quite out of character. Here's a hint: Sometimes. the "goal" is unconscious. You're already working toward it without realizing what it is.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Explorations of the higher mind bring

you closer to happiness. The quest for knowledge is an ongoing one, though. With all your research and study, you may find there is no nation that can satisfy you

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Public relations do matter. Put ener-

gy there. You're so used to your work that it no longer seems impres sive to you. Though it's hardly the sort of thing you boast about, some one else does and is promoted as a

CANCER (June 22-July 22). It would be nice to be left in your own little corner of the world to do your thing. But that's just not the way it works. Getting along with difficult people will be the difference between success and failure.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). There's a time to extend your arms and a time to retract them, hugging your

own soul. You're comforted by pulling back - delve deeper into your own reality, and you'll find the elation you've been seeking through external means.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

Holiday Mathis

Moral and ethical issues arise. If you can't get involved in what the group is doing, it may be because it's inherently wrong. An honest man doesn't really have a knack for that sort of activity

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You have a long list of unfinished business. The good news is that much of it doesn't have to be accomplished

by you. Let loved ones know that if they're going to be hanging out with you, they should expect to be put to work.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Someone mysterious inspires you to activate your search engine! Everyone has something to hide, though the secrets you uncover may not be as deep and dark as your imagination wants them to be

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You can still win, but you must be persuasive to do it. Getting people to think like you is impossible. So try and come to a consensus with the people you're pretty much stuck

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). It's a bird, it's a plane, it's ... your imagination. Unfortunately, no one is coming to rescue you out of your current precarious position. So you must rely on your own super

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Loved ones who have been recently neglected will act out. Consider that there is probably a better way to balance your time. Rework your schedule. Remember, the excellent things in this world must be fought

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

Once again, it's clear that your happiness depends on being able to connect in agreement with two or three special people. As John Lennon said, "A dream you dream alone is only a dream. A dream you dream together is reality."

Creators Syndicate

Peanuts







Worse

5













HALL OF FAME

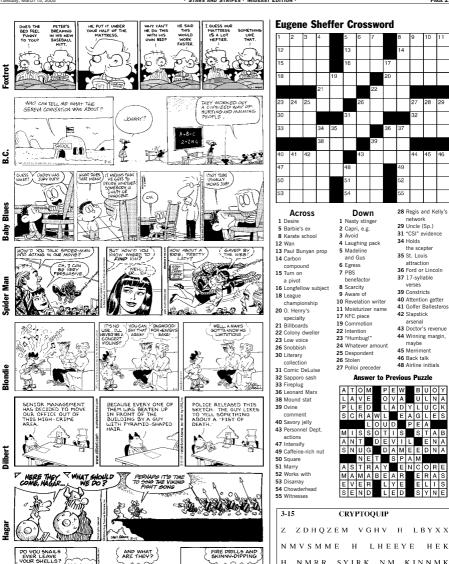


REVEILLE

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Tuesday, March 15, 2005 · STARS AND STRIPES · MIDEAST EDITION · PAGE 21



TWO REASONS.

HEK

NMRR SYIRK N M KINNMK

NYYDMBHEQ "VGM

ONE OF Yesterday's Cryptoquip: ONE OF MY COMPUTER KEYS APPEARS TO BE STICKING. BUT I CAN'T PUT MY FINGER ON IT.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals B

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

Stay under the umbrella your majesty

Help dealing with gay daughter

Dear Abby: In 2000, I won full custody of my two children, a boy, 12, and a girl, "Dallas," who is now 14

I have done everything I could to raise them both with good morals and provide them with a good education.

A few weeks ago. Dal las confided in me that she's attracted to girls. and has a long-distance relationship with a girl in a different state. It came as a shock, but I have tried to understand s that she doesn't feel had about it. I'm hoping this is just a phase she's going through and that it will pass - but if it doesn't, I'll do my best to deal with it.

My problem is that Dallas insists on letting everyone know about her orientation. She even wears jewelry with the rainbow colors. I keep trying to make her understand that this is HER husiness and it's not something she should make public, but she responds by asking me if I'm

"Of course not.") Am I wrong by telling her that? What's the correct way to deal with this?

- Confused Parent. Arlington, Va Dear Confused: It is a compli-

ment to you that your daughter trusts you enough to be open with you about her sexual orientation.

Many gay teens - and younger children — are so afraid they'll disappoint their parents by disclosing they are "different" that they

don't talk about it. What your daughter needs right now is to know that you love and approve of her. You must be doing some-

thing right, because she is assured enough about who she is that she feels safe being open about it.

It is extremely important that you come to terms with your own feelings about homosexuality. It is not uncommon for the parents of a gay child to feel guilt or shame, when in truth, it has

nothing to do with the quality of their parenting and everything to do with genetics

Your wisest move at this point would be to contact PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays), and join one of its many support groups. Once you do, you will find it enormously helpful. Contact it by calling (202) 467-8180, or check the Web site at www.pflag.org.

I have recently learned about another helpful resource for parents of younger children who exhibit gender-variant behavior and interests. It's the Children's National Medical Center, which offers a booklet titled "If You Are Concerned About Your Child's Gender Behaviors." It can be downloaded from www.dcchildrens.com/gendervariance in either English or Spanish. It can also be ordered by writing CNMC, 111 Michigan Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20010.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at http://www.uexpress.com/dearabby Universal Press Syndicate

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME Unscramble these four Jumbles,

one letter to each square. to form four ordinary words. LUTIG

Yesterday's

(Answers tomorrow) COLON FABRIC

WHEN THE KING WENT OUT FOR

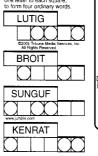
THE NIGHT, HE

Now arrange the circled letters

to form the surprise answer, as

suggested by the above cartoon.

WORE HIS



Jumbles: BROOK UTMOST Where the band ended up when their concert Answer fizzled - AT "ROCK" BOTTOM

Ask ex about meeting adult son

Dear Annie: Many years ago, I was married

and had a son, "Linus. That marriage fell apart, and later, I remarried. Linus was then 4 years old. At that time my ex-wife asked if she and her new husband could adopt Linus, My wife and I were expecting a baby, we didn't have much money, and I consented to the adoption because I knew my new family needed the child support money It was a painful decision, but I thought it was the right one.

In the past 13 years, I have come to regret my choice. I've had no contact with Linus since the adoption. He recently turned 18, and I would like to renew our relationship, but I don't know how. I have no idea what his mother has told him over the years. How should I approach

- Absent Dad

Dear Dad: It's possible Linus

Annie's Mailbox

Dear Abby

has no clue about his adoption. You should contact your ex-wife and ask if your son would be interested in meeting you. It would be best if she would facilitate the contact.

However, if she refuses, you can ap-proach Linus on your own. He is an adult now and entitled to this information.

Start with a letter or phone call, explaining briefly that you regret missing out on his life and would like to get to know him. Any further contact, however, is up to him.

Dear Annie: I have been married to "Dean" for 10 years. Two years ago, he needed surgery to remove his wedding ring because of swelling.

When he recovered, I tried to replace the ring, but he told me he didn't want to wear it any-

I'm sure he isn't cheating, and

I know he loves me, but this is breaking my heart. I have cried and begged, but he won't budge I have become so resentful that it is affecting the way I feel about him. Am I being oversensitive? It's been two years, and it still

hurts as much today as it did

- Still Brewing in Michigan Dear Michigan: Dean probably doesn't want to wear a ring hecause he fears he'll need surgery again. The swelling must have been quite painful. Since you know he loves you, and you are certain he isn't cheating, stop fussing over this. You are focusing too much attention on some thing that doesn't have to be so important. It's just jewelry.

What counts is the commitment behind it — and you have that.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Sync cate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

Creators Syndicate

Family Circus



"A lot of the poems Mommy likes don't even rhyme!'

GRAFFITI





The ghost of Baron Rudolph von Gugge 16th-century noblemen mustare ith-century nobleman murdered by the Countess Rowena DuBois and her lover (believed to be the Duke of Norwood), falls into Edna's bean dip.



SCOREBOARD

AFN TV & Radio

AFN-Sports, 6:30 a.m.-High school basket-all: Jam Fest (Slam Dunk, Three-Point, and eam Ball Finals) (did). AFN-Sports, 7:30 a.m.-College basketball: (CAA Women's Tournament Special (did). AFN-Sports, 2:30 p.m.-NBA: Milwaukee at ilami (did). wiami (did).

AFN-Sports, 6 p.m.-Outdoors: Wal-Mart
**EW Tour (dld).

AFN-Sports, 7 p.m.-Baseball: Spring Train-ng, L.A. Angels vs. Chicago White Sox.

Wednesday

AFN-Sports and Radio, 1 a.m.-College bas-ketball: NCAA Tournament play-in game, Netball: NCAA Tournament play-in game, Oakland vs. Alabama A&M. AFN-Atlantic, 1 a.m.-College basketball: NIT first-round game. AFN-Sports, 3 a.m.-College baskeball: NIT

AFN-Sports, 3 a.m.-College baskeball: NIT irst-round game.
AFN-Atlantic, 3 a.m.-Motor racing: Champing off-Rood Racing, Topeka Races 2 and (both did).
(both did

as (did).

AFN-Sports, 5:30 p.m.-Auto racing: Nextel
Lup UAW-Daimler Chrysler 400 (did),
AFN-Sports, 9 p.m.-Tennis: Pacific Life
Inen. women's guarterfinals.

All times are Central European Time; dld in-dicates delayed listing. All listings are sub-ject to change. Visit www.myafn.net for more information.

Baseball

Spring training glance AMERICAN LEAGUE

.727 .700 .692 Cleveland Toronto Los Angeles Tampa Bay Detroit Baltimore Chicago Minnesota Boston Kansas City New York Oakland .556 .500 .461 .417 .400 .400 .385 .364 .273 Texas Seattle NATIONAL LEAGUE Pct. .700 San Francisco Milwaukee .667 .583 Milwaukee Atlanta New York Washington Arizona Chicago Los Angeles Philadelnhia .545 .545 .545 .539 .500 .454 .454 Philadelph Pittsburgh Cincinnati San Diego Florida

NOTE: Split-squad games count in standings; games against non-major le teams do not.

Sunday's gan N.Y. Mets 7, Detroit 6 Minnesota 4, Boston 2 N.Y. Mets 7, Detroit 6 Minnesota 4, Boston 2 N.Y. Yankees 8, Houstor L.A. Dodgers 7, Florida 2 Cleveland 10, Cincinnati Toronto 5, Tampa Bay 0 Washington 11. Baltimore (ss) 4 Philadelphia 9, Pittsburgh 7 Baltimore (ss) 5, St. Louis (ss) 3 Seattle 7, Texas 6 L.A. Angels 3, Chicago Cubs 2 San Diego 5, Oakland (ss) 1 Arizona (ss) 15, Milwaukee 11 Chicago White Sov 9, Colorado 8 Oakland (ss) 3, Arrona (ss) 0 Kansas City 3, San Francisco 3, tie, 10 in-

nings

Monday's games

Florida vs. Minnesota at Fort Myers, Fla.

Atlanta vs. St. Louis at Jupiter, Fla.

Boston vs. Baltimore at Fort Lauderdale, Fla. N.Y. Mets vs. Cleveland at Winter Haven.

L.A. Dodgers vs. Washington at Viera, Fla. Toronto vs. Philadelphia at Clearwater Fla.

Detroit (ss) vs. Cincinnati (ss) at Sarasota, Fla.

la.
Texas vs. L.A. Angels at Tempe, Ariz.
Colorado vs. Arizona at Tucson, Ariz.
Seattle (ss) vs. San Diego at Peoria, Ariz.
Chicago White Sox vs. Chicago Cubs at

Chicago White Sox vs. Chicago Cubs at Mesa, Ariz. Kansas City (ss) vs. Milwaukee at Phoenix Seattle (ss) vs. Kansas City (ss) at Sur-prise, Ariz.

IZ. nati (cc) vc Dotrnit (cc) at I akoland Fla. Pittsburgh vs. N.Y. Yankees at Tampa, Fla.

Auto racing

UAW-DaimlerChrysler 400

NASCAR Nextel Cup Sunday At Las Vegas Motor Speedway Las Vegas Lap length: 1.5 miles (Start position in parentheses)) Jimmie Johnson, Chevrolet, 267

\$428,066. 2. (10) Kyle Busch, Chevrolet, 267, \$244,800. 3. (5) Kurt Busch, Ford, 267, \$249,125. 4. (11) Jeff Gordon, Chevrolet, 267, \$197,911.

5. (42) Kevin Harvick, Chevrolet, 267, \$179,485. 6. (3) Greg Biffle, Ford, 267, \$139,600. 7. (15) Casey Mears, Dodge, 267, \$139,083. 8. (6) Matt Kenseth, Ford, 267, \$151,111. 9. (1) Ryan Newman, Dodge, 267, \$148,511.

11. (16) Bobby Hamilton Jr., Chevrolet, 267, \$117,908. \$117,908. 12. (21) Rusty Wallace, Dodge, 267, \$129,283. 13. (29) Dave Blaney, Chevrolet, 267, 13 \$106

. (20) Carl Edwards, Ford, 267, \$104,025. . (22) Jamie McMurray, Dodge, 267, . (18) Mike Bliss, Chevrolet, 267, \$94,925. . (24) Jeff Burton, Chevrolet, 267

11. Co.)
118.70. Dale Jarrett, Ford, 267, \$125,683.
18. (13) Joe Nemechek, Chevrolet, 267, \$112,583.
20. (26) Jeremy Mayfield, Dodge, 267, \$117,280.
21. (36) Michael Waltrip, Chevrolet, 266,

21. (3b) Michael waters, Section 5115,439. 22. (17) Jason Leffler, Chevrolet, 266, \$84,425. 23. (39) Jeff Green, Dodge, 266, \$115,061. 24. (30) Mike Wallace, Chevrolet, 266,

28. (39) Mike Wallace, Chevrolet, 268 85,950. 25. (35) Kyle Petty, Dodge, 265, 595,950. 25. (6) Travis Kvanil, Dodge, 265, 595,950. 27. (20) Scott Winnier, Dodge, 265, 595,950. 27. (20) Scott Winnier, Dodge, 265, 595,950. 27. (20) Eliots Sadier, Ford, 265, 595,950. 20. (2) Eliots Sadier, Ford, 265, 595,950. 30. (49) Mark Martin, Ford, 243, 595,590. 31. (4) Scott Riggs, Chevrolet, 243, 595,590. 32. (41) Eric McClure, Chevrolet, 237, out 33. (40) Hermie Sadler, Ford, 226, out,

33. (40) Hermie Sadier, Ford, 226, out, 577,800.
34. (14) Ken Schrader, Dodge, 225, \$76,650.
35. (25) Sterling Marlin, Dodge, 219, \$104,358.
36. (38) Randy LaJoie, Chevrolet, 182, out, 576,250. \$76,250.
37. (33) Ricky Rudd, Ford, 181, \$103,239.
38. (7) Kasey Kahne, Dodge, 154, out, \$107,90.
39. (27) Robby Gordon, Chevrolet, 57, out, \$75,625.
40. (43) Morgan Shepherd, Dodge, 39, out,

75,400. 41. (31) Bobby Labonte, Chevrolet, 15, out, 41. (31) Bobby Labonte, Chevrolet, 15, out, \$109,780.
42. (34) Dale Earnhardt Jr., Chevrolet, 11, out, \$122,433, 43. (32) Brian Vickers, Chevrolet, 11, out, \$83,166.

Race Statistics Time of Race: 3 hours, 18 minutes, 32 sec

Time of Race: 3 hours, 18 minutes, 22 secMaryla of Victory; 16.5 seconds;
Winter's Average Speech; 12.08 mph.
Winter's Average Speech; 12.08 mph.
Laud Changers; 25 mong 12 drivers.
Laud Leaders; Riverman 6, 62.8fffe; 1-14.
Laud Changers; 25 mong 12 drivers.
Laud Leaders; Riverman 6, 62.8fffe; 1-14.
Laud Changers; 25 mong 12 drivers.
Laud Changers; 25 mong 12 mo

Point Standings: 1. JJohnson, 525. 2. Kurt Busch, 510. 3. G.Biffle, 428. 4. J.Gordon, 418. 5. C.Edwards, 408. 6. T.Stewart, 402. 7. R.Wal-lace, 395. 8. K.Harvick, 394. 9. R.Newman, 389. 10. M.Martin 374. lace, 395. 8. K.Harvi 10. M.Martin, 374.

Golf

.41

Honda Classic

Sunday At The Country Club at Mirasol, Sunrise Course Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. Purse: \$5.5 million Yardage: 7,384; Par: 72 Final Round

Final Round

X-won on second hole of playoff

X-P. Harrington, \$990,000 73-68-96-63 - 274 - 14

Joe Ogliwie, \$484,000 73-68-67-68 - 274 - 14

Joe Ogliwie, \$484,000 73-66-67-68 - 274 - 14

Pat Pierz, \$284,000 69-69-67-70 - 275 - 13

Bard Esons, \$158,000 - 275 - 275 - 275

Joe Ogliwie, \$484,000 73-66-67-68 - 274 - 14

Bard Esons, \$158,000 - 275 - 275 - 275

Joe Ogliwie, \$484,000 74-68-775 - 275 - 275

Joe Ogliwie, \$484,000 74-68-775 - 275

Joe Ogliwie, \$484,000 74-68-775

Joe Ogliwie, \$484,00 S. McCarron, \$77,000 Nick Watney, \$77,000 Sean O'Hair, \$77,000 Lee Janzen, \$77,000 Kevin Na, \$43,816.67 68-68-74-71-69-72-68-72-69-64-72-76-69-69-78-66--281

T. Petrovic, \$43,816.67 71-70-73-68-J. Williamson, \$43,816.67 73-68-71-70-Brian Gay, \$43,816.67 73-69-70-70-Billy Mayfair, \$43,816.67 72-68-71-M. Dawson, \$43,816.67 71-70-70-71 L Williamson, \$43,816,677,66-71,77-28 Billy Maylarf, \$53,816,677,76-87-17,7-28 M. Dawson, \$43,816,677,76-87-17,7-72 M. Dawson, \$43,816,677,7-77-77-77-78 Dawson, \$43,816,667,7-77-77-78 M. Herisby, \$43,816,667,7-77-78-78 Charle M. \$43,816,667,7-77-78-78 Dawson, \$43,816,667,7-77-78-78 Joe Durant, \$53,012,97,07-77-78-78 Davily Hart, \$22,000,7-77-77-78-8 Dauley Hart, \$22,000,7-77-77-78-8 Dauley Hart, \$22,000,7-77-78-78-8 666666655 Paul Gow, \$22,000 74-69-71-70-284 Justin Leonard, \$22,000 71-69-71-73-284 Bariel Chopra, \$22,000 71-69-71-73-284 Daniel Chopra, \$22,000 71-69-71-74-284 Robert Damron, \$22,000 71-69-77-74-284 Robert Damron, \$22,000 71-69-77-76-284 Glein Hnatlux, \$11,4560 71-73-76-284 Glen Hnatiuk, \$14,960 71-73-72-69-285 - 3 Carl Pettersson, \$14,960 72-72-72-69-285 - 3 Glen Day, \$14,960 73-70-72-70-285 - 3 Tag Ridings, \$14,960 70-70-73-72-285 - 3 Andrew Magee, \$14,960 72-72-69-72-285 - 3 H. Tanaka, \$14,960 73-69-70-73-285 - 3

SBC Classic

Sunday At Valencia Country Club Santa Clarita, Calif. Purse: \$1.55 million Yardage: 6,905; Par: 72 Final Round

Pinal Roy Des Smyth, 522,000 D.A. Welbring, \$124,000 Mark McNulty, \$124,000 Cralj Stadler, \$83,700 Mike Reid, \$58,900 Kelth Fergus, \$58,900 Brad Bryant, \$46,500 Bruce Fleisher, \$37,200 Don Reese, \$37,200 71-72-68-211 71-69-72-212 72-66-74-212 72-72-69-213 Don Reese, \$37,200 Don Pooley, \$37,200 Lanny Wadkins, \$31, B. Summerhave Dana Quigley, \$25,600.83 Tom Purtzer, \$25,600.83 Wayne Levi, \$25,600.83 Isao Aoki, \$25,600.83

72-72-09-213 74-66-73-213 70-71-73-214 72-65-77-214 73-74-68-215 74-70-71-215 75-71-70-216 Retsu, 337,200 72-71-73-210 79 Pooley, \$37,201 07 73-70-74-217 ummerhays, \$25,600.84 73-73-72-218 a Quigley, \$25,600.83 77-69-72-218 n ruerlevi, \$25,600.83 72-73-73-218 ruerlevi, \$25,600.83 76-87-73-218 n ruerlevi, \$25,600.83 ruerlevi, \$25, 77-69-72-218 72-73-73-218 76-68-74-218 69-73-76-218

College basketball

Sunday's scores

TOURNAMENT Atlantic Coast Confere Championship Duke 69, Georgia Tech 64 Big Ten Conference Championship

Championship Oklahoma St. 72, Texas Tech 68

Oklahoma St. 72, Tevas Tech 68
Southeastern Conference
Championship
Florida 70, Kentucky 53
Southland Conference
Championship
SE Louisjana 49, Northwestern St. 42
Southwestern Athletic Conferenc
Championship
Alabama A&M 72, Alabama St. 53
MCAA Division II
Revan 75, Segional Semifinals

NCAA Division II Regional Semifinals Bentley 90, Southern New Hampshire 84 Mount Olive 72, Indiana, Pa. 64 Salem International 105, Pfeilfer 92 Tarleton State 65, Pittsburg State 59 Texas A&M-Commerce 81, Central Okla. Texas A&M-Commerce 81, Central Olda. Lynn 73, Central Arkansas 69 Montevallo 65, Eckerd 62 Ferris State 93, Southern Indiana 87 Findlay 63, Wayne State, Mich. 49 South Bakota 73, Winona State 68 Metro State 85, Minn. State-Mankato 64 Va. Union 85, South Carolina-Upstate 67 Bowie State 84, Columbus State 72

Sunday's women's scores

TOURNAMENT
NCAA Division II
Regional Semifinals
Bentley 63, Southern Connecticut State 49
Merrimack 76, American International 67
NCAA Division III
Quarterlinals
Springfield 80, Southern Maine 69

College baseball

Sunday's men's scores

EAST Binghamton 15-7, Delaware St. 11-1 Coppin St. 6-5, Md.-Eastern Shore 2-6 Delaware 7, Stony Brook 5

George Mason 5, Fairfield 1 George Washington 6, Vern Towson 4-3, LeMoyne 2-0 UMBC 10, Canisius 7 SOUTH Akron 9, Murray St. 7 Arizona St. 30 W Illinois 13 UMBC 10. Carbinia 7.

UMBC 10. Carbinia 7.

SOUTH
Afron 3. Marry 3.

Afron 3.

Afron 3. Marry 3.

Afron 3.

Afro

Middle Fennessen 8, Jacksonyille St. O Micholis St. St. Dusliana Tech 3 North Carolina at Va. Tech C.d., weather North Carolina at Va. Tech C.d., weather C.d., Wilmylord, In July J. I North Fordis 14, Kennesau St. 9 North Fordis 14, Kennesau St. 9 North Fordis 14, Kennesau St. 9 North Rords 14, Kennesau St. 9 North St. 6, M. Carolina Az T 5 South Carolina 6, Clemson 5 South Alabama St. Nigara 1 South Carolina 6, Clemson 5 South Fordis 14, Julynipipas 5 Fordis 14, Julynipipas 5 South Fordis 14, Julynipipas 5

Tennessee 12, Radford of Troy 3, Lipscomp Lillerton 9
Tusculum 9, Lenoir-Hyme 8, 10 innings UM-Creensboro 5, The Citadel 4
UM-Creensboro 5, The Citadel 4
Wash 8, Lee 14-4, Hampden-Sydney 4-13
Wash 8, Lee 14-4, Hampden-Sydney 4-13
Walbama 7, Ouachtin Baptist 9
William 8, Many 9, Princeton 9
William 8, Many 9, Princeton 9
Valie 6, Massachusettis 5
Valie 6, Massachusettis 5
Valie 7, Massachusettis 5
Valie 8, Mary 9, Evanoville 3

Austin Peay 6, Evansville 3 Cincinnati 6, Xavier 0 Cent. Missouri 2, Emporia St. 0 III.-Chicago 14, Saint Louis 7 Kansas 17, N. Dakota St. 2 Kansas St. 11, E. Michigan 3 Manchester 3-6, DePauw 2-2 Missouri 17, Yuyunstown St. 0

Kansas 31. 1.1.5, DiePaŭw 2-2 Missouri 17, Youngstown 51. 0 Missouri 17, Youngstown 51. 0 SE Missouri 18, Freed-Hardeman 1 S. Illinois 4, Chicago 51. 0 Swest 51. Minn. 6-4, North Dakota 3-11 Washburn 9-3, Minn. Crookston 1-0 Washburn 9-3, Minn. Crookston 1-0 Xiangas 6, Espando 1, Subardem 1, Alexanda 6, Landard 1, Alexanda 6, Landard 1, Alexanda 1, Ale

Affic-Hine Build Z-A Shuttmen D. J.
Affic-Hine Build Z-A Shuttmen D. L.
Mississippi 7, Sam Houston St. 3
Oklahoma T, Sam Houston St. 3
Oklahoma T, Su, Wis-Millwauke 1
Rice 2, TCU I I I I Rice 2, TCU I I Rice 2, TCU I I Rice 2, TCU I I Rice 3, AFIC I Rice 3, AFI

Mississippi St. 13, Artzona 12
New Mexico 13, Savannah St. 3
N. Colorado 4, Washington St. 3
Portiand 6, Pacili, Guida 6
San Diego 10, San Diego St. 2
San D

Ark.-Little Rock 3, Tenn.-Martin 0 Yellow Book USA Classic Oregon St. 8, Winthrop 2 CS Northridge 8, Pepperdine 1 College hockey

Saturday's scores

Austin Peay 6, Evansville 3 N. Illinois at Evansville, ppd., weather

lowa 16, Rider 2
Lamar Classic
Lamar 3, N.Y. Tech 0
Michigan 9, Cent. Connecticut St. 0
MetroDome Tournament
Louislana-Lafayette 3, St. John's 1
Harvard 9, Minnesota 1

Harvard 9, Minnesota 1
Public Storage Classic
Wichita St. 6, Texas Tech 5
UC Irvine 8, Southern Cal 2
USA Challenge
Connecticut 4, Tenn.-Martin 0
Indiana St. 11, Memphis 10

Renn Bradley 21, Toledo 3 Iowa 16, Rider 2

Saturday's scores
Alamit Hockey Association
Quarter/hais
Bentley 4, Can Quarter/hais
Bentley 4, Can Gardel Heart 0
CHA
Alassia-Fairbanks 6, Bowling Green 3, AlassFairbanks may series 2-6 series tied 1-1
Michigan 1, Notre Dame 6, O'r, Michigan
Weis series 2-6. Miami (Dish 0, d'r, Michigan
Bentley 4, Marin (Dish 0, d'r, Michigan
Bentley 4, San Marin Challo 4, d'r, Michigan
Bentley 4, San Marin Bentley 4, San Marin Bentley 4, Bent

wins series 2-0 Michigan St. 5, Miami (Ohio) 4, OT, Michi-gan St. wins series 2-0 Nebraska-Omaha 4, Lake Superior St. 3, OT, Nebraska-Omaha wins series 2-0 N. Michigan 4, W. Michigan 2, series tied 1.1 CHA Sai

Semifinals Alabama-Huntsville 4, Niagara 2 Bemidji St. 6, Air Force C ECAC

ECAC Second Round Colgate 3, Brown 0, Colgate wins series 2-0 Cornell 3, Clarkson 2, OT, Cornell wins se-fes 2-0 Harvard 3, St. Lawrence 2 ries 2-0

les 2-0
Vermont 3, Dartmouth 2, OT, series tied 1-1
Hockey East
First Round
Boston College 5, Massachuetts 1, Boston
College wins series 2-0

NCAA Div. III

MCAA Div. III
Quarterfinals
Middlebury 6, Curry 0
New England Coll. 4, Manhattanville 0
St. Thomas, Minn. 3, St. Norbert 2
Trinity, Conn. 4, Geneso St. 0
WCHA
First Round

tied 1:1 Colorado College 4, St. Cloud St. 2, Colorado College 4, St. Cloud St. 2, Colorado College wins series 2:0 Denver 1, Michigan Tech 0, Denver wins series 2:0 Minnesota 5, Minne Alaska-Anchorage 2, Wisconsin 1, series minnesota 5, Minn.-Mankato 3, Minnesota ns series 2-0

North Dakota 6, Minn.-Duluth 1, North Da-kota win series 2-0

Tennis

Pacific Life Open

Sunday At The Indian Wells Tennis Gard Indian Wells, Calif.

Indian Wells, Calif.
Purse: Men, \$2,724,500 (Masters);
Women, \$2.1 million (Tier I)
Surface: Hard-Outdoor
Singles
Men
Second Round

Men Second Round Taylor Dent (30), United States, def. Cyril aulnier, France, 1-6, 7-6 (1), 6-2. Paul-Henri Mathieu, France, def. Tommy

TANK McNamara



No longer than 'other' Washington school

Huskies not only region's top seed but also its best 'feel-good' story

> BY EDDIE PELLS The Associated Press

ob Knight and Rick Pitino. Gonzaga and UCLA All household names that are part of the Albu-querque regional this year. Only the hard core, though, might be familiar with the top seed — pint-sized guard Nate Robinson, third-year coach Lorenzo Roman and the Washington Huskies.

The Huskies (27-5), who play the majority of their games after most of America has gone to bed, definitely got the attention of the NCAA selection committee.

They won the Pac-10 tourna-ment Saturday and, when Ken-tucky lost in the Southeastern Conference final Sunday, the door was opened for Romar's team to be seeded first — not bad for a team ranked just 14th in the latest Associated Press poll. "If you ask me, 'Do we deserve

it?' My answer is yes," Romar said. "Are we surprised? I guess the surprising part is that we weren't sure whether someone else, other than us, would think we deserved it.'

With Washington as the No. 1, Wake Forest as the No. 2 and last vear's national runner-up. Georgia Tech, as a No. 5, this is widely regarded as the most wide-open of the four regionals.

Gonzaga, arguably the most recognizable team from Washington, earned a third seed and, given the bracket, there's a good argument for this being the year the tiny



Washington coach Lorenzo Romar hugs Jamaal Williams after the Huskies' 81-72 victory over Arizona on Saturday. Washington earned not only the Pac-10 tournament title but a No. 1 seeding in the NCAA tourney.

school from Spokane finally gets to the Final Four "I don't really sit there and ana-

Bulldogs coach Mark Few said. "I leave that up to the brack-

All around the bracket are interesting stories featuring familiar names and high-profile pro-

Knight leads sixth-seeded Texas Tech in a first-round game against 11th-seeded UCLA.

Chris Paul of Wake Forest tries to set aside his suspension from the Atlantic Coast Conference tournament - one that contributed to his team's first-round loss and lead the Demon Deacons to the regional semis for the second straight year.

Georgia Tech, a bubble team just two weeks ago, got in easily thanks to its appearance in the ACC tournament final. The Yellow Jackets open against George Washington.

Pitino leads the fourth-seeded Cardinals against Sun Belt champion Louisiana-Lafavette. The Cardinals, ranked sixth in the AP and winners of the regular-season and tournament championships in Conference USA, were expecting a better seed, and now have reason to play with a chip on their shoulders.

T've got to lift them up a little bit." Pitino said. "But we're in the tournament, we've met the criteria, we've met all the challenges and we've just got to keep on going.

Pacific looked like it could be the next Gonzaga, a powerful small school that had won 22 straight going into the Big West Conference tournament final. A loss in that game dampened the ontimism, but when the bracket came out, the Tigers found themaway (against Pitt) from playing the Huskies

"It looks like a good bracket for forward Christian Maraker

Indeed, it is wide open, and there is no need to look too far down the bracket to find the kind of intriguing, unknown team that often captures imaginations during the tournament

That candidate is the Huskies. who get 16.7 points a game from the 5-foot-9 Robinson and who defeated Arizona twice over the last three weeks to greatly improve their standing in the bracket.

They beat out Kentucky, Oklahoma State. Wake Forest and a few other good candidates for a top seed, and even some in the oft-overlooked Pac-10 were surprised.

'It speaks volumes to the selection committee they were able to give a No. 1 seed to the Pac-10 in the West," Stanford coach Trent Johnson said. "Me personally. I didn't think they were going to

They did, though, and Romar gets much of the credit. A former Huskie himself

Romar was an assistant under Jim Harrick when UCLA won the national championship in 1995 Romar took over before the 2002-03 season and quickly transformed the Huskies from a regional also-ran into a national power.

Washington was third in the latest RPI ratings. The Pac-10 tournament title was the first league championship of any kind for the Huskies since 1985

"We've definitely got a banner to put up in the gym next year, Washington forward Bobby Jones said. "We'd love to have another one that says, 'National Champions,' too."

AP Sports Writers Tim Korte in Seattle and Janie McCauley in San Francisco contributed to this report.

Albuquerque Regional

Becord: 7.5.4 th 8-24. or risp. 28. or risp.

freams.

2. WAKE FOREST

Record: 26-5. Last 10: 8-2

Best win: 95-82 vs. North Carolina on Jan. 15.

Key players: G Chris Paul (14.9 pts., 6.6 asst.), C rividillams (16.0 pts., 7.7 reb.), G Justin Gray 16.3 pts., 21 asst.). Did you know?: CBS announcer Billy Packer was an All-ACC guard for Wake in 1962, when the Deacons made their only final Four trip. Outlook: With Paul running the point, Demon Deacons could make a strong run for the Final

Deacons could make a strong run flow the Final Four.

2. CONTAGA

Record: 25-4. Last 18: 10: 10-20.

Record: 25-4. Last 18: 10: 10-20.

Rest win: 78-7 at Oklahoms Stats on Dec. 28.

Rey players: F Adom Morrison (18: 15-2.

Did you know?: Eight of "Zags" nine NCAA wins hold to play the player of the

outlook: Coming on strong, Cardinals could nake a long tournament run.

5. GEORGIA TECH

Record: 19-11. Last 10: 6-4.

Best win: 102-101 at Wake Forest on Jan. 27.

Key players: G Jarrett Jack (15.9 pts., 4.6 asst.),

G-F B.J. Elder (13.4 pts., 358-3pt pct.), C Luke
Schenscher (10.4 pts., 7.5 reb.). Schenscher (10.4 pts., 7.5 reb.). Did you know? Yellow Jackets' loss to Connecticut in last year's title game was best NCAR run in thool lists' pear's title game was best NCAR run in thool lists' pearly low Jackets are peaking at the right time, but the selection committee did them no favors. One win could be It.

Record: 20-10. Last 16:5-5.

Record: 20-10. Last 16:5-5. one for 14.4.

Record: 20-10, Last 10: 5-5.
Best win: 80-79 vs. Kansas on Feb. 14.
Key players: G Ronald Ross: (16.6 pts., 5.1 reb.),
J alrrius Jackson (14.6 pts., 3.3 reb.). F Devonne
siles: (11.6 pts., 1.9 blk.).
Did you know?: Ross, the Red Raiders' leading
corer, was a walk-on without a scholarship as a

reshman. **Outlook:** Never count a Knight-coached team out, but the Red Raiders will be lucky to win two

games. 7. WEST VIRGINIA

Record: 21-10. Last 10: 7-3.

Best win: 70-6a EP Pittsburgsory (10:6, etc., 10:1)

Did you know?: The Mountaineers have produced 13 All-Americans over the years including acketched the produced 13 All-Americans over the years including acketchal legends Jerry West and "10t" Rod acketchal legends Jerry West and "10t" Rod

Hundley.

Outlook: Anyone from the Big East is tough, but Mountaineers lack the big-time player to take them deep into the tournament.

R PACIFIC.

take them deep in mish, the pig-time player to the them deep in the PACPIE.

Record: 26-3, Last 16-3.

Record: 26-3, Last

Record: 20-8. A PITTSBURGH

Record: 20-8. Last 19-5-5.

Rev players: 0. Cull Knauer (1.5, pts. 6. despt.) 2. Chewron Frourinan (1.5 a pts. 8. despt.) 2. Chewron College (1.5 a pts. 8. despt.) 2. Chewron College (1.5 a pts. 9. despt.) 2. Chewron College (1.5 a pts.) 2. Chewron College (1.5

Record: 18-10. Last 10-6-4.
Best wim: 5-8 or. Washington on Jan. 8.
Key players: G-F Dijon Thompson (18.3 pts., 8.0 reb.), G. Jordan Farmar (13.8 pts., 5.3 asst.), G. Jordan Farmar (13.6 pts., 5.3 asst.), G. Jordan (19.6 pts.), G

men, and their first-round exit from the Pac-10 tournament map be a sign of how they'll fare.

Record; 22,7, Last 18,6-2, State 9,6-3, on Dec. 4, Key Bluers; 6-1, Hompson (13,7 bts. 3, 0), ass.b; 7, 18, Pinnock (13,5 pts., 5, 1 reb.), F Nana Polly and the property of th

tournament comes in John Shulman's first year as I head coach. Sa I head coach. Sa I head coach. Shulman's less than five points each of the past three years. Wade Forest had better be ready. Is. MONTANA

Becord: 19.1_2 Less 11.0.8.30 State on Feb. 25.
Key players F Kanner Davis (1.48 pts. 5.9 Feb.)
Crist Christopher Coach of the Coach of th

Powerhouse teams and players in Austin

Duke, Kentucky, Michigan State, Syracuse recent NCAA champs

BY JAIME ARON The Associated Press

ike to follow powerhouse programs in the NCAA tournament? Want to watch star players? Root for the underdogs? This year's Austin Regional is rich in all those story lines, including the chance that Duke and Kentucky will meet for a spot in the Final

The selection committee on Sunday rewarded the Blue Devils with the No. 1 seed for winning the Atlantic Coast Conference tournament, while the Wildcats dropped to No. 2 after losing the finals of the Southeastern Conference tournament.

The next three spots all went to recent Final Four teams - Oklahoma (2002), Syracuse (national champs in '03) and Michigan (2001 and national champs in 2000). Even the sixth through ninth seeds — Utah, Cincinnati, Stanford and Mississippi State have been to the Final Four recently enough that some fans may still be wearing the T-shirts.

The star power for this chunk of the bracket comes from Utah's Andrew Bogut, perhaps the nation's best big man, and three of the nation's top six scorers during the regular season: Vermont's Taylor Coppenrath, Niagara's Juan Mendez and Duke's J.J. Redick

It wouldn't be tournament time without charming upstarts. Among those two victories away from Austin are 14th-seeded Nia gara, which will be making its first appearance since Calvin





Two of the best big men in the country, Utah's 7-foot Australian, Andrew Bogut, left, and Syracuse's Big East player of the year. Hakim Warrick, will draw plenty of attention in the NCAA tournament's Austin Regional.

Murphy was the main attraction in 1970, and No. 16 seed Delaware State, which is in for the first time, period. There's also No. 15 seed Eastern Kentucky, whose coach, Travis Ford, helped first-round foe Kentucky reach the Final Four in 1993.

If Duke and Kentucky can win

three straight games, history indi-cates it would be one beck of a game. The teams have met in the NCAA tournament five times and all have been decided by six points or less; the last three have been even better, with a total of four points separating the win-

And if you really want to look ahead, think about who the win-

ner of this region will face in St. Louis: the winner of the Syracuse Regional, which includes North Carolina, reigning champion Connecticut, Kansas and Florida.

The Blue Devils (25-5) open Fri-day close to home in Charlotte, N.C., against Delaware State (19-13), winner of the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference championship. Next up, on Sunday would be the winner of the 8-9 game between Stanford (18-12) and Mississippi State (22-10).

Stanford is 5-3 since losing leading scorer Dan Grunfeld to a knee injury, but recently beat Washingne top seed in the Albuquer que Regional, and narrowly lost to the Huskies in the semifinals of

the Pac-10 tournament, Mississippi State is on the upswing since getting guard Winsome Frazier back from a broken foot, and now the Bulldogs are hoping to get out of the first weekend for the first time since making the Final Four

Syracuse and Michigan State have both won national titles since then, and could meet Sunday in Worcester, Mass.

First, Hakim Warrick and fourth-seeded Syracuse (27-6) must get past 13th-seeded Vermont (24-6) on Friday, while fifth-seeded Michigan State (22-6) opens against 12th-seeded Old Dominion (28-5). The Spar-tans and Orange last met in the gan State won it all.

Syracuse is a popular sleeper pick to come out of this region it can be considered a sleeper after its first Big East tournament title since 1992 and after Warrick picked up the tourney MVP to go with his conference player of the

Kentucky (25-5) will be trying to bounce back from its worst-ever loss in the SEC tournament — "Obviously, we're going to have to play better to do well," coach Tubby Smith said — when coach rubby Smith said — when it plays Eastern Kentucky (22-9). That winner gets either No. 7 Cin-cinnati (24-7) or No. 10 Iowa (21-11). Those games are Thursday and Saturday in Indianapolis.

"I came here four years ago, and each year I've asked coach Huggs, 'Can we play Kentucky? and they couldn't arrange for that game to happen," Bearcats for-ward Jason Maxiell said. "If we win against Iowa, that game's

going to happen." Huggins, however, won't look ahead

'If they spend all that time thinking about that, they'll be watching Kentucky play Iowa on

TV," Huggins said. Fans in Tucson, Ariz., will get to see Mendez and Bogut, definite-

ly on Thursday and perhaps head-to-head on Saturday. Mendez, the only player in the NCAA this season to rank in the top 10 in scoring (23.6 points) and rebounding (10.5), leads Niagara (20-9) against third-seeded Oklahoma (24-7). Bogut and sixth-seeded Utah (27-5) start with No. 11 UTEP (27-7).

The Utes and Miners used to be conference foes, so they know each other well. Not so for Oklahoma of the Big 12 and Niagara of the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference

"There are kids on their team that are going to say, 'Coach, what conference are they in?' "Niaga-ra coach Joe Mihalich said. "So hopefully, that'll work a bit in our

Austin Regional

Record: 25-5, Last 10: 7-8-2 Best win: 102-92 at Wake Forest on Jan. 20. Key players: 6 J. Leedick (22-6 pts., 417-3-pt baniel Ewing (15.1 pts. 40 asst.), 1.11 reb.), G baniel Ewing (15.1 pts. 40 asst.), 1.11 reb.), G baniel Ewing (15.1 pts. 40 asst.), 1.11 reb.), G booter (331 pts.) to 10.00 km of the 10.00 km of th

2. KENTUCKY Record: 25-5. Last 10: 7-3.

Best win: at Louisville, 60-58, on Dec. 18.
Key players: G-F Kelenna Azubuike (14.5 pts., 352 3-pt pct.), F Chuck Hayes (10.8 pts., 8.0 reb.), G Rajon Rondo (7.9 pts., 3.4 asst.), G Patrick 352 3-pt nct.), F. Chuck Hayes (10.8 pts. 46.7 reb.). Sognific (11.4 pts.), 9.3 sts.), 7. Patrick Sognific (11.4 pts.), 9.3 sts.), 6. Patrick Sognific (11.4 pts.), 9.3 sts.), 9.3 sts.), 7. Patrick Sognific (11.4 pts.), 9.3 sts.), 9

only four Syracuse players to earn Academic All-America honors and the first to be named to the team more than once.

Outlook: A tournament-savvy team with a veteran coach, the Orange have overcome a late season slump and are poised to make a run for another national championship.

5. MICHIGAN STATE

Record; 22-6. Last 16:8-2.
Best win: 77-64 vs. Wisconsin on Feb. 24.
Key players: C Paul Davis (11.7 pts., 7.3 reb.), G
Maurice Apre (13.6 pts., 87-8), T
Did you know?: 12 of the 17 Spartans are from
Michigan.

Michigan.

Outlook: If the Spartans can keep their games close, they could go a long way thanks to their .791 free-throw percentage, tied with Texas-El Paso atop the NCAA. 6. UTAH

Record: 27-5. Last 10: 8-2.
Best win: 69-58 over New Mexico on Jan. 22.
Key players: C Andrew Bogut (20.6 pts., 12.0 eb.), G Marc Jackson (10.7 pts., 3.3 reb., 3.8

reb.J. 6 Marc Jackson (16.7 jrts., 3.3 reb., 3.8 stay ou know? Over the past 10 seasons the Utes have the seventh best winning percentage in Division I.(77) with a 25-47 record. Andrew Bogut and a strong supporting cast, a trip the Sweet 16 - 0 rebut ends concluded the Sweet 16 - 0 rebut ends concluded the Sweet 16 - 0 rebut ends concluded to the Sweet 16 - 0 rebut ends concluded to the Sweet 16 - 0 rebut ends concluded to the Sweet 16 - 0 rebut ends concluded to the Sweet 16 - 0 rebut ends concluded to the Sweet 16 rebut ends concluded the Sweet 16 rebut ends concluded to the Sweet 16 rebut ends

Record: 18-12. Last 10: 6-4.
Best win: 87-76 vs. Arizona on Jan. 8.
Best win: 87-76 vs. Arizona on Jan. 8.
Best vin: 87-76 vs. Arizona on Jan. 8.
Best vin: 87-76 vs. Arizona on Jan. 9.
Best vin: 87-80 vs. 19-80 vs. 1

Outlook: The Stanford women's team is a con-tender for the NCAA title. This is not the year for the Cardinal men.

9. MISSISSIPPI STATE

9. MISSISSIPPI STATE
Record: 22-10. Last 10: 5-5.
Best win: 80-55 over Arkansas on Jan. 15.
Key players: C Lawrence Roberts (17.0 pts.,
1.1 reb.). G Winsome Frazier (12.4 pts., 360 3-pt
Ct.). GF Shane Power (11.5 pts., 25 asrs).
Did you know?: Coach Rick Stansbury is first
oach to guide Buildogs to three consecutive

NCAA trips.

Outlook: The Bulldogs were 0-6 against Top 25 teams this year. Anything past the second round would be difficult to imagine.

10.10WA

Record: 21-11. Last 10: 6-4.

Record: 21-11. Last 10: 6-4.
Best win: 76-71 vs. Louisville on Nov. 22
Key players: F Greg Brunner (14.5 pts., 8.3 reb.),
Adam Haluska, (14.5 pts., 400 3-pt pct.), Jeff
Jorner (14.0 pts., 5.6 asst.).
Did you know?: On Feb. 2, the Hawkeyes suspended their leading scorer Pierre Pierce, who

pendéd their leading scorer Pierre Pierce, who was charged with sexual assault. Outlook: This is only the second NcAA appear-ance under coach Steve Alford in six seasons. Don't expect it it. 12. Assault is seasons. Don't expect it. 11. TEXAS-EL PASO. Record: 27.7. Last 10: 8-2. Best with: at Nevada, 83-90, on Jan. 12. Key players: F Omar Thomas (20.2 pts., 6.7 reb.), G Hilberto Rivera (12.9 pts., 12 asst.), 6-F Bottom of the Stevenson of the Stevenson

ason Williams (11.8 pts., 3.0 asst.). Dil you know?: Then known as Texas Western, coach Don Haskins' Miners beat Kentucky, 72-65, o win 1966 national title. It was the first time a earn that started five African-Americans had won the championship.

Outlook Hardly a deep team, Miners are still a langerous first-tall and ponent.

-round opponent. 12. OLD DOMINION

aangerous instruction opponent.

Record; 28.5. Last 10: 8.7.

Best wins 74-63 at NC-Willinington on Feb. 5. 8.1

reb., (6 Isalah Hunter (134 pts., 3.2 reb.), F Aranud Dah (13.3 pts., 5.7 reb.), F Aranud Dah (13.3 pts., 5.7 reb.), F Aranud Dah (13.3 pts., 5.7 reb.). The Second Dah (13.4 pts.) of the

Record: 24-6. Last 10: 7-3 exponent 10: 24-6. Last 10: 7-3 exponent 25: 7 exponent 26: 7 exponen

Office in the country, and the Catamounts could be a handful for Syracuse in the foundation of the top scores of the country, and the Catamounts could be a handful for Syracuse in the first round.

14. NIAGARA

McCast Haney (15.5) tz. 8.3 reb. (5.2 ach Ingles (1.4) gats. 27 reb.). Colored are making their first KCA bournament appearance since 1973. Outlook: Cock A bournament appearance since 1973. Coultook: Cock A bournament appearance since 1973. See 1974 outlook of the cock the almost and the cock to the cock of the cock to the cock of the cock

A 'stacked, stacked bracket' with intrigue

Syracuse Regional champ will have to 'earn their way' to St. Louis

BY DENNIS WASZAK JR. The Associated Press

orth Carolina, Connecticut, Kansas and Florida are a formidable foursome at the top of the Syracuse Regional.

Throw in talent-laden teams liked Villanova, Wisconsin and North Carolina State, and this 16-team field shapes up as one of the toughest in recent NCAA tournament history

"This is a stacked, stacked bracket," UConn coach Jim Calhoun said Sunday after the NCAA tournament's 64 teams were announced. "Therefore, whoever gets to St. Louis is going to have to earn their way

The top-seeded Tar Heels (27-4) had its first 20-win season since 2000-2001 and finished alone atop the Atlantic Coast Conference regular-season standings for the first time since 1993, but lost to Georgia Tech in the ACC tournament semifinals.

"Earning a No. 1 seed is truly a reward for a fantastic season," coach Roy Williams said in a statement. "I am extremely happy for our seniors to make it to the NCAA tournament two years in a row after enduring a difficult first two years

The Tar Heels will face the winner of Tuesday's play-in game Friday in Char-lotte, N.C. Oakland (12-18), which won the Mid-Continent Conference tournament, will play Alabama A&M, the Southwestern Athletic Conference champion in Dayton.

With a victory, Carolina would face the winner of the Minnesota (21-10)-Iowa State (18-11) matchup.

There's also the possibility of an intriguing Elite Eight game, with North Carolina facing Kansas - the school Williams left to coach his alma mater in 2003.

"It would be a dream for me," Kansas se-nior guard Michael Lee said. "I want to play my former coach. I didn't think I would have a chance to. But if we get a chance to meet them, it would be fun

The Jayhawks (23-6), the No. 3 seed, open against Bucknell (22-9) at Oklahoma City. Kansas was ranked No. 1 in the coun-





Kansas coach coach Bill Self, left, has downplayed the potential Elite Eight matchup with former Kansas coach Roy Williams, right, now coaching No. 1 seed North Carolina.

try early on and No. 2 for most of the season but lost five of its last eight games, in-cluding the Big 12 semifinal to Oklahoma

"Carolina is not on my brain at all." Kansas coach Bill Self said. "We've got Bucknell and we've got Wisconsin or Northern Iowa if we're fortunate enough to beat Bucknell. That's all this team should be focused on and thinking about."
Wisconsin (22-8) lost to No. 1 overall

seed Illinois in the Big Ten championship. while Northern Iowa (21-10) has won five

Defending national champion Connecticut, the No. 2 seed, opens against Central Florida (24-8) at Worcester, Mass. The Huskies (22-7) have won 10 of their last 12 and earned a share of the Big East regular-season crown — all while dealing with personal setbacks.

Star recruit A.J. Price is recovering from a brain hemorrhage he suffered in Octoher Leading scorer Rashad Anderson battled a life-threatening illness last month brought on by complications from a skin in-

"It's been hard," forward Charlie Villanueva said. "We've been through a lot and it's a blessing being a two seed. Without a doubt, it's toughened us up."

Next up would be the winner of the Charlotte (21-7)-North Carolina State (19-13)

State was ranked as high as No. 12 and started 10-1 this season, but lost nine of its next 12 before working their way back into

tournament contention.

"Win or lose, they can always remember how they were in a very tough spot and yet

they battled their way out of it," coach Herb Sendek said. "That's something that's going to stay with these guys for a

Florida (23-7), which beat Kentucky twice in eight days - to win the regular-season finale and its first SEC tournament title - opens against Ohio (21-10) in Nashville, Tenn.

"We're very, very excited about what happened today," coach Billy Donovan said. "But we've got to be able to take that next step and just focus on the NCAA tournament and getting ready to play.

The last time the Gators made the Final Four, also going through the Syracuse Regional, was in 2000, when they lost to Michigan State 89-76 in the national championship game. In the four years since, Florida hasn't gotten past the first round But the Gators are playing their best bas-

ketball of the season - winning seven in a row and allowing an average of just 56.4 noints during that span The Florida-Ohio winner takes on whoev-

er comes out of the Villanova-New Mexico game - one of the tournament's most intriguing 5-12 matchups.

Fifth-seeded Villanova played in the NIT the last five years, had an eight-game winning streak before losing to West Virginia in the Big East semifinals. 'Nova gained confidence late in the season with wins over then-No. 3 Boston College last month and then No. 2 Kansas in January

'I think it's helped us a lot to prepare for this particular moment, playing those tough teams," forward Curtis Sumpter said.

"I think we're in one of the toughest brackets out there

New Mexico (26-6) has won nine in a row and was a bit miffed at getting a No. 12 seed after winning the Mountain West Conference tournament.

"I thought we'd get an 11 or possibly a ," New Mexico coach Ritchie McKay said. "Twelve seeds are usually the last at-large (teams) in. I thought being 26-6 we deserved a little more favorable number

but we'll just take what we got

Syracuse Regional

Record: 24-7. Last 10: 8-2 Best win: 91-78 vs. Kentucky on Dec. 4. Key players: F Sean May (16.7 pts., 10.9 reb.), G Rashad McCants (15.8 pts., 2.8 asst.), G Raymond Felton (12.0 pts., 7.3 asst.), F Jawad Williams Felton (12.0 pts., 7.3 asst.), F Jawad Williams (14.4 pts., 4.0 reb.). **Did you know?:** Roy Williams' 35 tournament wins is tied with Oklahoma State's Eddie Sutton

wills is tied with Okaliolina State's Eurie Sutton for most by a coach who hasn't won national little. Outlook: Powerful and deep, anything but a Final Four appearance will be a disappointment. Record: 22-7, Last 10: 8-2 Pectavity: 27, 6-64 10: 8-2

Record: 2.7.1. CONNECTICUT
Record: 2.7.1. CONNECTICUT
Rest wite: 7.6.4 of Pittsburgt on Feb. 26.
Key Jayers: F/C Josh Bonne (12.9 pts. 8.5 reb.), F Charlie Villanueva (13.1 pts. 8.1 reb.), E Charlie Villanueva (13.1 pts. 9.1 reb.), F Charlie Villanueva (13.1 pts. 9.1 reb.), GF Rashad Anderson (12.8 pts.)
Did you know? Ray Allen holds the Connection of the Charlie Villanue (13.1 pts.) And Anderson (12.3 5.20). Three-point shooting at Outlook: Anderson returned in 18 jeas tournement after missing sever games with staph injectured of the Charlie Villanue (13.1 pts.) Anderson if they hope get back to the Final Four.
Record: 23-6. Last 10: 6.3553.
Record: 23-6. Last 10: 6.3553.

Record: 23-6, Last 10: 5-5
Best wint 65-5 9 vs. Kentucky on Jan. 9, ts., place y layers: F Wayner Simlen (19.4 pts., 11.1 re.b., 6, Kelth Langford (14.7 pts., 2.8 reb.), G Agroth Wiles (20.9 pt., 3 sts.), as not lost a first-round game in its last 21 paperances. Outlook: Jayhawks are talented enough to make third Final Four in the past four years, but only if they can shake a late-season slump.
4. FLORIDA.

Record: 27.1 Last 10:9-1
Best win: 85-54 over Alabama, Feb. 5.
Rey players: 6 Anthony Roberson (18.6 pts., 2.4
asst.) 6 Matt Walsh (18.3 pts., 482 a-pt ptt.), F
Did you know? Denovan and Texas Feb.'s Bob
Knight are the only two active coaches to coach
and play in a Final Four.
Outlook: Could win a few. Could lose early.
This team is a mystery.

S. VILLANOVA

Record; 22-7. Last 10:8-2

Best win: 83-62 vs. Kansas on Jan. 22.

Key players F. Curtis Sumpter (16.2 pts., 7.4

reb), G Alian Ray (17.3 pts.)

The Williams knocked off four
Top 25 teams this season, including then-No. 2

Kansas.

Aansas.
Outdook: Villanova has jelled the past six weeks and the season shows it can play with the big boys, but a repeat of the Wildcats' 1985 championship magic is unlikely.

6. WISCONSIN

Record: 22-8. Last 10: 8-2 Best win: 62-59 vs. Michigan State on Jan. 16. Key players: F Alando Tucker (15.0 pts., 6.7 eb.), F Mike Wilkinson (14.8 pts., 7.2 reb.), G Sharif Chamblisis (7,7 pts., 29 asst.). Sharif Chamblisis (7,7 pts., 29 asst.). Sharif Chamblisis (8,7 pts., 29 asst.). Sharif Chamblisis de Penn State in soring as both a sophomore (14.6 pts.) and a junior (14.7 pts.) Outlook: Pesty Badgers could befuddle their opponents or be gone in a flash.

Record: 21-7. Last 10: 7-3.

Best win: 102-101 vs. Alabama on Dec. 4.

Key players: F Curtis Withers (17.5 pts., 8.3

eb.), F Eddie Basden (15.3 pts., 8.4 reb.), G/F reb.), F Eddie Basden (15.3 pts., 8.4 reb.), G/F Brendan Plavich (14.1 pts.), Did you know? Plavich led the SEC with a .441 three-point shooting percentage while playing for Vanderbilt in 2001-02. Outlook: With a nice blend of inside-outside, Charlotte could catch a team or two napping. But the 49ers dropped their last three, which is

8. MINNESOTA Record: 21-10. Last 10: 6-4

Record: 21-10. Last 10: 6-4 Best win: 60-50 vs. Wisconsin on Feb. 5. Key players: G/F Vincent Grier (17.9 pts., 1.9 Htt), C Jeff Hagen (11.5 pts., 2.5 blk.), G Aaron Robinson (8.0 pts., 400 3-pt pct.). Did you know?: Before coming to Minnesota, oach Dan Monson led Gonzaga to the Elite

Record: 18-11. Last 10: 7-3.
Best Win: 63-61 at Kansasa n Feb. 19.
Best Win: 63-61 at Kansasa n Feb. 19.
Best Web, C Jarde Homan (134 pts., 8.2 reh.) a William (134 pts., 8.2 reh.) a William (142 pts., 4.9 ast.)
Bid you know? Only four players on lowa's rosOutlook: One win is possible for the streaky Cyolones, who started the season 0-5. Anything

nore is hard to fathom.

10. N.C. STATE

Record: 19-13. Last 10: 6-4.

Record: 2:6. Last 10:5.1.

Rest wine 5:5-4 vs. Utah on Feb. 21:8.

Rey players: F Danny Granger 1(13) pts., 8.5.

Did you know?: The Lobbs have finished second in the nation in attendance five times, third Outlook: Lobbs beat a tough Utah team to earn a trip to the tournament and have the talent to stick around awhile.

Home on the Plains

As if they needed more of an advantage, the Illini will be close to home throughout the tournament

BY NANCY ARMOUR The Associated Press

llinois couldn't have a better draw unless the NCAA tournament was moved to Assembly Hall

The top-ranked Illini drew the overall No. 1 seed and the Chicago Regional on Sunday, essentially giving them homecourt advantage for the entire NCAA tournament. All three rounds are within a three-hour drive of the campus, and the regional finals are in Chicago, where most of the players grew up.

"It gives us a great advantage," Roger Powell Jr. said. "Our fan support is so strong. Even if we went far away, I'm sure would have came. This just makes it easier on their gas money, you might say

Illinois set its sights on a No. 1 seed months ago. with Nick Smith saying in October, "It's St. Louis or bust." Which No. 1 really didn't matter, though the Illini know their geography as well as anybody else.

And the Illini made it easy on the selection committee, going 32-1, spending almost the entire season at No. 1 and winning the Big Ten title and conference tour-

Even a loss in the regular-season finale didn't hurt them. though it had seemed to reinforce what doubters had been saying all along: The big men are weak there is little, if any, depth and the Big Ten isn't the ACC. The Illini may have kept their No. 1 ranking last week but 22 voters nreferred North Carolina

But Illinois won the Big Ten tournament Sunday after North Carolina lost to Georgia Tech in the ACC semifinals. The Tar Heels finished the year 27-4. All the other top schools finished with at least four losses

'We put ourselves in the posi wanted to be in. All we have to do is take advantage of it," said James Augustine, the most valuable player in the Big Ten tournament. "We're happy with

the position we're in."

They should be. While other tournament teams will be spending much of their time traveling Alabama-Birmingham was sent to Boise, Idaho, for the open-ing round — the Illini could hitch rides and still make it with time to

Indianapolis, where the Illini

44 They are definitely feeding us to the lions.

> Tom Green Fairleigh Dickinson coach

will play 16th-seeded Fairleigh Dickinson on Thursday, is a two-hour drive. Chicago is less than 21/2 hours away, and St. Louis is on the state line, a mere three-hour jaunt.

And talk about fan-friendly. When Illinois played in the Wood en Classic in December, Illini fans overran the city. Chicago is merely an extension of Champaign, home to eight players and the largest alumni concentration. On Sunday, the entire arena

was awash in orange except for two small sections. They're not shy about their allegiance, either. They even booed the clips of Wisconsin fans singing their fight

song that flashed on the score-"Hopefully our people have been on the phones, buying up

tickets," coach Bruce Weber said We talked about having a chance to go to Indy, to go to Chicag We're pleased with that. At the same time, I told the kids I was part of a No. 1 seed at Purdue and we got unset in the second round So you can't take anything for granted."

Don't worry about that, Deron Williams said

'We're not Purdue We're try ing to write our own stories," he said. "We're going to be focused. We've got Fairleigh Dickinson first. We're going to concentrate on them.

Great, just what the Knights wanted to hear. Fairleigh Dickinson won the Northeast Conference championship to

a spot in NCAA tournament for the first time in seven years. The Knights (20-12) knew they'd be facing a No. 1 team; they just didn't think it would be Illinois.

"They are definitely feeding us to the lions," Fairleigh Dickinson coach Tom Green said Illinois isn't the only team in ne Chicago Regional with

friendly travel schedule. Oklahoma State was tapped as the No. 2 seed after winning the Big 12 tournament, and drew Oklahoma City

for the opening round. The Cowboys (24-6) play 15th-seeded Southeast Louisiana (24-8) on Friday

"We really wanted to go to Okla-homa City. We have a very good chance there," Daniel Bobek chance there," Daniel Bobek said. "If we make it to Chicago, it is the same thing that we faced last year, when we had to go play in New Jersey, which is like play ing St. Joe's at home.' For those not keeping score

Cowboys knocked off



beat Wisconsin 54-43 in the title game of the Big Ten tournament.

top-seeded Saint Joseph's in the regional finals to advance to the Final Four. 'I think we have a good brack-

et, considering the other teams in the Big 12," Joey Graham said "We have a great opportunity."

While the Illini and Cowbovs had no complaints with their seed-ings, Boston College was more than a little bitter. Back when they were 20-0 and ranked third in the country, the Eagles were in line for a No. 1 seed.

But after going 4-4 in their last eight games — including a loss to

West Virginia in their first game of the Rig East tournament - the Eagles found themselves seeded fourth in the Chicago regional. Worse, they were shipped to

Cleveland for the opening round instead of to nearby Worcester, Mass. When the Eagles saw their No. 4 seed, they sat stone-faced while students watching the selection show with them booed.

Boston College will play 13th-seeded Penn (20-8) on Thursday.

Chicago Regional

1. ILLINOIS

Record: 323.1 Last 18: 9-1.

Record: 324.1 Last 18: 9-1.

Rec

nis player.

Outlook: With a few breaks, OSU has the horses to make it back to another Final Four. The Cowboys lead the nation in three-point shooting (42 percent).

(42 percent).

3. ARIZONA
Record: 27-6. Last 10: 9-2.
Rest wim: 91-82 vs. Washington on Jan. 27.
Are players: G Salim Stoudamire (B&2 pts., 530
Are players: G Salim Stoudamire and Free at the top
Outlook: With Stoudamire and Free at the top
Will be a disconnection of the Elite Egist.

of their games, anything short of the Elist Elight will be a disappointment OLLEGE

Record: 24-4.1ast 19: 6-1.

Record: 24-5.1ast 19: 6-1.

Record: 24-6.1ast 19: 6-1.

Re

Record: 24-7. Last ALASAMA
Best wire 38-69 to Micsissippi State on Jan. 18.
Key players G Kennedy Winston (18.1 pts., 2.4
asst.), G Earnest Shelton (16.4 pts., 2.1 asst.), F
Did you know? As a player on Alabama's N
NCAA Sweet 16 team, Gottfried set as
vanderbijk.

school-record with eight 3-pointers in a win over Vanderbill.

Outlook Tallented team could reach Sweet 16, but don't look for mid-May-Tallented Vanderbill.

Record: 20-9, Last 10: 8-2.

Rec

LSU great Pete Maravich, is a waix-on guaru or the County of the County

wo seasons.

Outlook: With surprise run to Sweet 16 in 2002 and losing by a point to Missouri and Alabama in first round last two years, Salukis are not to be taken lightly.

taken lightly.

Record: 29.9. Last 18: 75.48

Rest win: 75-61 vs. Oklahoma State on Jan. 17.

Rey players (20 Daniel Gibson (1.45 pts., 403-91)

Ridder (1.45 pts.) (1.45 pts.) (1.45 pts., 403-91)

Ridder (1.45 pts.) (1.45 pts.) (1.45 pts.) (1.45 pts.)

Ridder (1.45 pts.) (1.45 pts.) (1.45 pts.) (1.45 pts.) (1.45 pts.)

Ridder (1.45 pts.) (1

Record: 24-6. Last 10: 9.1.

Best win 6: 2-6 au UTPP on Feb. 12.

Key players: F Nick Fazekas (21.5 pts., 9.4 reb.), c Remon Sessions (9: 2 pts., 3-6 st.). G Ramon Sessions (9: 2 pts., 3-6 st.). G Ramon Sessions (9: 2 pts., 3-6 st.). G Ramon Sessions (9: 2 pts., 3-6 st.). G Remon Sessions (9: 2 pts., 3-6 st.). G Remon Sessions (9: 2 pts.). G Remon Sessions (9: 2 p 10. ST. MARY'S

The Control of the Co

Best win: 86-56 vs. Wisconsin-Green Bay on

Jan. 15.

Key players: G Ed McCants (17.4 pts., 2.8 reb.), F Joah Tucker (15.2 pts., 5.9 reb.), G Boo Davis (10.4 pts., 3.3 reb.).

Did you know?: McCants, the Horizon League Player of the Year, has made at least one three-point basket in every Panthers game this season.

season.

Outlook: Fared poorly against big brother Wisconsin and Kansas during regular season. A
first-round upset over Alabama would be a

Record; 208, 11. PRINSTY UNIAN
Best with 67-99 v.5. 51. doseph's on Jan. 25.
key players 67 in Begley (11.8 jbt. 5. 5.4 rob.), G
bert with active (11.8 jbt. 5. 7.4 asst.), F Stere Danband active (11.8 jbt. 7.4 asst.), F Stere DanBod you known in 1979, Quakers rode upset
wins over North Carolina Syracuse, St. John is to
Did you known in 1979, Quakers rode upset
wins given North Carolina Syracuse, St. John is to
John St. John St.

Record: 24-7. Last 10: 8-2.
Best win: 84-60 at Cal State Fullerton on Jan. 20.
Key players: F Spencer Nelson (16.4 pts., 8.1 eb., 4.8 asst.); G Jaycee Carroll (14.6 pts.); F Nate arris (13.0 pts., 6.1 reb.).
Did you know?: Last year's Utah State_team Did you know?: Last year's Utah State team was denied a tournament birth despite a Top 25 ranking and a 25-4 record.

Outlook. A good mix of youth and veterans, the Aggles could catch Arizona napping.

15. SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA

15. SOUTHEAST LOÙÍSIANA Record: 24-8. Last 10: 8-2 Best win: 55-48 at Boise State on Nov. 21. Key players: F Ricky Woods (17.2 pts., 6.9 reb.), 3 Jonathan Patton (11.8 pts., 3.2 reb.), C Nate Lof-on (11.5 pts., 7.2 reb.). Did you know?: The Lions have the sixth-best coring defense in the nation, allowing just 55.8

scoring defense in the nation, allowing just 55.8 points per game, experience in the brumament or even against a big-conference team this season, the Liona sea | long-shot for a single win. Record: 20:12. Last 10:7-3. Record: 20:12. Record: 20:12. Last 10:7-3. Record: 20:12. Last 1

Chaney returning for NIT

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA John Chaney will return to coach Tem ple in the NIT

Chanev was suspended for the final five games of the season after ordering rough play from one of his players, who subse-quently broke the arm of St. Joseph's senior John Bryant.

Chaney, 73, first suspended himself for one game before the school extended the punishment to three games after the extent of Bryant's injury was discovered. The Hall of coach then banned himself from the Temple sidelines for the Atlantic 10 tournament

The school announced Monday that Chaney would be on the bench when the Owls (16-13) play Virginia Tech (15-13) in a first-round game Tuesday night.

Top assistant Dan Liebovitz went 3-2 in Chaney's absence.

Liebovitz said Monday that
Chaney has been at every home
practice and "pretty much has
been his usual self." Liebovitz
said the players have moved on.

"In their eyes, it's a dead issue at this point," he said. "We've done everything we can as a university to spread our sym-

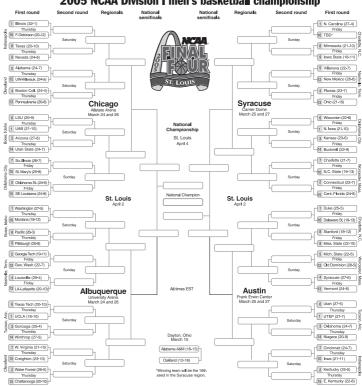
pathy and our apologies." Telephone messages left for Chaney and athletic director Bill Bradshaw were not immediately

The Hawks (19-11) also are in the NIT and play Hofstra (21-8)

on Wednesday.

In a 63-56 loss to Saint Joseph's on Feb. 22. Chanev used Nehemiah Ingram — a player the coach called a "goon" — to "send a message" by committing hard fouls. Ingram fouled out in four minutes including the hit on Bryant that left the senior sprawled on the court for several minutes. An MRI revealed he had a broken arm

2005 NCAA Division | men's basketba championship



NCAA: Poor play late costs Wake, Boston College

NCAA, FROM BACK PAGE

the Conference USA regular season and tournament titles. Instead, the weekend's upsets turned everything upside down.

It's the sixth time in eight years two teams from the same conference were seeded No. 1. The last time was 2003 with Oklahoma and Texas of the Big 12. No conference has ever had three No. 1s and for the first time ever two No. 1s will be playing in the same venue

Duke and North Carolina will both play Friday in Charlotte. Duke opens against Delaware State (19-13), while North Carolina (27-4) meets the winner of Tuesday's play-in game between Oakland (12-18) and Alabama A&M (18-13).

Oakland is the only team in the field with a losing record.

"We try to keep people as close to home as possible, and that starts on Line 1, Bowlsby said.

Kentucky drew a No. 2 seed after losing to Florida in the SEC championship and will play in nearby Indianapolis. Louisville drew the No. 4 seed in Albuquerque and opens in Nashville, Tenn.

"People inside here were saying, 'We're definitely a 2, maybe a 1,' " Louisville coach Rick Pitino said. "I said, 'Look, don't be surprised if we're a 3.' I had a gut feel-

Other teams were not so lucky.

Bowlsby said Wake Forest could have sneaked back into a top seed if Duke had lost the ACC title game. Instead, the Demon Deacons were given a No. 2 seed and sent to Cleveland for a contest with Chattanooga (20-10) and a possible regional final showdown with Washington.

Seventh-ranked Boston College (24-4), the Big East regular-season co-champ, was shipped to Cleveland, where it faces Ivy League champ Pennsylvania. Boston College is No. 4 in Chicago.

"I'm disappointed, because we had it in our hands, being 20-0, and let it slip away," Eagles forward Jared Dudley said. "But you can cry about it, or you can do something about it."

Two other Big East schools, Connecticut (22-7) and Syracuse (27-6), will play in Worcester, Mass. Connecticut, the defending national champ, is the second seed in Syracuse, while the Orange are No. 4 in Austin

The committee can't put more than two teams from the same conference at one

Among those not invited were Saint Joseph's (19-11), DePaul (19-10), Maryland (16-12) and Notre Dame (17-11). With the Irish missing the cut and 15-13 Indiana falling off the bubble, it is the first time since 1972 that the state of Indiana was shut out of the tournament.

The Illini won't get any frequent flyer miles in this tournament, with the first and second rounds in Indianapolis, the regional in Chicago and the Final Four on April 2 and 4 in St. Louis.

Illinois opens Thursday against North east Conference champion Fairleigh Dickinson. They were followed in the Chicago regional by second-seeded Oklahoma State, which won the Big 12 tournament; No. 3 Arizona, the regular-season Pac-10 champion; and Boston College.

Washington opens Thursday in Boise against Montana, the Big Sky champion. Gonzaga is the No. 3 seed in the region and plays Winthrop.

After North Carolina, which lost to Georgia Tech in the ACC semifinals and Connecticut, Kansas is No. 3 and Florida is No.

Along with Duke and Kentucky in the Austin bracket are third-seeded Oklahoma

and Syracuse

The Big East and Big 12 each has six teams in the field, one short of the record, while the ACC, SEC and Big Ten have five apiece. The other multiple bid leagues were Conference USA and the Pac-10 with four; the Missouri Valley with three; and the Big West, Mountain West, West Coast and Western Athletic Conference with two.

The last of the at-large teams were all No. 11 seeds: Alabama-Birmingham (21-10), Northern Iowa (21-10) and UCLA

What! Who's No.1?

Committee says Stanford isn't worthy of a top regional seeding

BY CHUCK SCHOFFNER
The Associated Press

LSU and Tennessee tried to make it easy on the selection committee for NCAA women's basketball tournament.

If only the other top teams had been as cooperative.

By winning so often against top-caliber competition, LSU and Tennessee were obvious choices as No. 1 seeds in the tournament bracket that went up Sunday. It took careful examination and considerable debate to come up with the two others: Michigan State and North Carolina.

Uh, notice anybody missing here? That would be Stanford, the No. 1 team in The Associated Press poll. For the first time since it happened to Texas in 1984, the nation's top-ranked team is not a No. 1 seed in the NCAA field.

The disappointed Cardinal, 29-2 with 20 straight victories, Authority be diplomatic. Still, it wasn't what they had expected after sweeping the regular-season and tournament championships in the Pac-10, a league that ended up with as many NCAA teams (5) as the more highly regarded Southeastern Conference.

"Honestly, a long time ago I stopped trying to figure out the committee and seeds," said Stanford coach Tara VanDerveer, whose team reached the regional finals last year as a No. 6 seed.

"What's much more important to me is the team being healthy. There's no sense in overanalyzing the thing."

Stanford wasn't healthy the last time it was seeded No. 1, in 1998, and was stunned by 16th-seeded Harvard in the first yound

Harvard in the first round.

LSU was the overall No. 1 seed and was followed by Tennessee,

and was followed by Tennessee, Michigan State and North Carolina. Baylor also got consideration for a No. 1 before ending up as the highest-ranked No. 2 seed. Stanford came next.

"We spent more time on the No. 1s than any year I've been on the committee," said Lynn Parkes, who chairs the group. "When we got down to those last two, there wasn't much to separate them."

Stanford's seeding wasn't the only thing that raised questions.

The committee decided to send Rutgers to the first- and second-round site at Connecticut, where the teams had a flare-up after the Big East championship game last week.

2005 NCAA Division I women's basketball championship



Rutgers guard Cappie Pondexter pointed at UConn coach Geno Auriemma after hearing something she felt was objectionable late in the game. Auriemma insisted he was talking to an official.

Connecticut and Rutgers won't play each other because they're in different regionals, but hard feelings might linger.

"I don't know, it doesn't take a lot of imagination to see their thinking," Rutgers coach C. Vivian Stringer said. "After all, we just came back from there. There was a lot of controversy there, so why not send them there again? Who knows what they are thinking?"

Making LSU and Tennessee the top seeds was something the committee didn't have to defend.

LSU, which spent more time at No. 1 in the poll than anyone else this season, went 14-0 in the Southeastern Conference, then lost to Tennessee by two in the finals of the SEC tournament.

Tennessee lost only to LSU in

the conference season and played the nation's toughest schedule.

Two teams from the same conference have been No. 1 seeds 10 times previously, most recently in 2003. Tennessee and LSU also were the two that year.

"It's great for the program," said LSU coach Pokey Chatman, who got the Lady Tigers to the Final Four last season while sub-bing for ailing Sue Gunter. "I can remember wondering if you were going to get in or wondering if you were going to be a 1, 2, 3 or 4 seed. It was nice knowing that for a small amount of time, you were concerned about being the (top)

Interestingly, LSU and Tennessee will start the tournament on the Lady Vols' court in Knoxville, which could make that site a hot ticket. LSU is the top seed in the Chattanooga Regional, while Tennessee was placed in the Philadelphia Regional.

Michigan State is No. 1 in the Kansas City Regional. North Carolina heads the bracket for the Tempe Regional.

The women's tournament scrapped the East, Mideast, Midwest and West designations in favor of the city hosting the regional semifinals and finals.

Of course, there could be a North Pole Regional and Michigan State would be excited. This is the first No. 1 seed for the Spartans, who shared the Big Ten title with Ohio State and won the conference tournament. They haven't played in a week and are eager to get started.

"These kids are grumpy and tired of sitting around," Michigan State coach Joanne P. McCallie said. "They're ready to play. It doesn't matter who else is in the bracket."

The bracket actually is downright tough. Stanford is the No. 2 seed, Connecticut is seeded third and Kansas State is the No. 4 seed. Connecticut, winner of the last three national championships won the Big East tournament this year. Kansas State was the Big 12 tournament runnerup. Michigan State is the only No. 1 seed that plays on Saturday, facing Alcorn State in Minneapolis.

seed that plays on Saturday, facing Alcorn State in Minneapolis. The three others play on Sunday — Tennessee vs. Western Carolina, LSU vs. Stetson and North Carolina vs. Coppin State.

Before this year, Michigan State's highest seed had been No. 4 and that was back in 1991.

"I really wondered how they'd weigh what we've done this year against the tradition that we don't have in this program, compared to some other schools," McCallie said. "If you look at what we did this year, it's a hands-down case. If you look at it in terms of tradition, it gets a little murky.

In the end, however, it cleared right up.

"There are times that's there's junch that separates teams," said Parkes, the associate athletic director a Memphis. "But we have to come to a decision and our decision was that North Carolina and Michigan State were the (final) No. 1 seeds."

Marshall ties mark for threes

League-record 21 three-pointers lift Raptors over 76ers

The Associated Press

TORONTO — Donyell Mar-shall took what the Philadelphia 76ers gave him.

And took And took And took Repeatedly left open in the cor-Marshall made ner, Marshall made 12 three-pointers to tie Kobe Bryant's NBA record and the Toronto Raptors hit a league-record 21 in their 128-110 home victory over

the 76ers on Sunday night. "They are predicated on stopping vou in the paint and making you shoot outside jump shots,' Marshall said. "When you have a coach that



Marshall

preaches style they're going to keep doing that no matter

what. Marshall was 12-for-19 from three-point range to tie the mark set by Bryant for the Lakers against Seattle in January 2003.

"The basket just looked humongous," Marshall said. "My teammates kept telling me to shoot it. They kept saying no matter what play we run we're going to look for you in the corner."

The former Connecticut forward had a career-high 38 points. the most ever by a Toronto re-

"You can't give a great shooter like that open looks like that. It's Philadelphia's Webber said. "I told him in the first quarter if he gets those looks he'd better go for the record and he did "

Toronto 21-for-34 on threes broke the NBA record of 19 set by Atlanta against Dallas in 1996. The teams combined for an NBA-record 31 three-pointers, breaking the mark of 29 set by Denver and Seattle in 1997, and the Rantors matched the club record for points.

After tying the record with 2:52 left, Marshall missed his last two shots and left to a standing ovation with 17.5 seconds to go

Jalen Rose added 25 points for the Raptors, and Morris Peterson had 20. Allen Iverson led the 76ers with 32

At Auburn Hills, Mich., the Detroit Pistons and Utah Jazz also set an NBA record

The teams combined for 18 points in the fourth quarter to break the record of 19 set by Miami and Toronto in the fourth quarter on Feb. 2, 2004. The Pistons won 64-62.

The 126-point total is the sixth lowest in NBA history. The league low is 119 by Boston (62) and Milwaukee (57) in 1955.

NBA scoreboard

Eastern Conference								
x-Miami x-Detroit x-Boston Cleveland Washington Chicago Indiana Orlando	48 38 34 33 33 32 31 31	16 23 29 27 27 28 31 31	Pct .750 .623 .540 .550 .550 .533 .500	13 13 14 16 16				
Philadelphia New Jersey Toronto	30 28 27	33 36 36	.476 .438 .429	20				

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Western Conference W L Pct 48 15 .762 47 15 .758 42 19 .689 41 21 .661 39 25 .609 37 25 .597 35 27 .565 32 29 .525

Sacramento Houston Memphis L.A. Lakers Denver Minnesota 32 30 32 32 28 35 23 37 L.A. Clippers Portianu Utah Golden State New Orleans x-division I

x-division leader Sunday's games Bullas 102. Minnesota 93 Houston 111. Sacramento 96 LA. Clippers 83, Chicago 78 LA. Clippers 83, Chicago 78 New Jersey 98. Orlando 82 Boston 105. Washington 101 Toronto 128, Philadelphia 110 Seattle 90. New York 80 Cleveland 98, Indiana 80 Phoenix 106, Monday's games Boston at Charlotte

Monday's gan Boston at Charlotte L.A. Lakers at Washington Detroit at Atlanta Milwaukee at Miami Milwaukee at Midiii Portland at Memphis New Orleans at San Antonio Houston at Golden State Tuesday's games Utah at Cleveland

Utah at Cleveland
LA. Lakers at Philadelphia
Miami at New York
Seattle at Chicago
Minnesota at Dallas
Orlando at Sacramento
Wednesday's games
Toronto at Boston Toronto at Boston Utah at Indiana Chicago at New Jersey Washington at Atlanta Seattle at Detroit Cleveland at Milwaukee Memphis at New Orleans Portland at Houston Minnesota at San Antonio Charlotte at Denver Orlando at L.A. Clippers

Sunday Mavericks 102, T-wolves 93 DALLAS — Howard 7-14 0-2 15, Nowitzki 9-22 3-3 21, Henderson 3-6 1-4 7, Finley 4-8 0-0

10, Terry 8-17-5-72. Daniels 4-9-1-01.6. Eradies; 1-16-27. West Present 2-7-2-8, Harris 6-3-8.0. American 6-1-01.7. Totals 3-97-7-8.0. Service; 1-16-27. West Present 2-7-2-8, Harris 6-3-8.0. American 6-1-01.7. Totals 3-97-7-8.0. Service 18-1-1-01.7. Service 18-1-1-01.7. Service 18-1-1-01.7. Service 18-1-1-01.7. Service 18-1-01.7. Service 18-1-01 27. Minnesota 25. Technica ach A.Johnson. A—19,420 (19,006)

Rockets 111, Kings 96

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Clippers 83, Bulls 78

CHICAGO - NOciol 27, 04 5, Davis 1-4 2-2 4, Curry 8-18 3-3 19, Hirrich 6-17 0-0 16, 2-2 4, Curry 8-18 3-3 19, Hirrich 6-17 0-0 16, 2-3 4, Curry 8-18 3-3 19, Hirrich 6-17 0-0 16, 0-3 0-0 0, Griffin 0-0 0-0, Totals 31-90 8-10 78, 1-2 10 1-2 10, 1-2

LA. Cippers 25 5 17 15—5 Three-Point Goals—Chicago & 22 (Hinrich 4-7, Gordon 2-5, Nocioni 1-2, Duthon 1-6, Pilat 6-00x8ki 0-2), L. Cippers 9-3 (Simmons 6-1, Cimpers 9-1), Cimpers 9-1, Cimpers 9-1, Cimpers 9-1, Cimpers 9-1, Cimpers 9-1, Cimpers 9-6 (Simmons 12), Assists—Chicago 19 (Hinrich, Duthon 8), L.A. Cilppers 9-6 (Simmons 12), Assists—Chicago 19 (Hinrich, Duthon 8), L.A. Cilppers 9-6 (Simmons 12), Assists—Chicago 19 (Hinrich, Duthon 8), L.A. Cilppers 9-6 (Simmons 12), Assists—Chicago 19 (Hinrich, Duthon 8), L.A. Cilppers 9-6 (Simmons 12), Assists—Chicago 19 (Hinrich, Duthon 8), L.A. Cilppers 9-6 (Simmons 12), Assists—Chicago 19 (Hinrich, Duthon 8), L.A. Cilppers 9-6 (Simmons 12), Assists—Chicago 19 (Hinrich, Duthon 8), L.A. Cilppers 9-6 (Simmons 12), Assists—Chicago 19 (Hinrich, Duthon 8), L.A. Cilppers 9-6 (Simmons 12), Assists—Chicago 19 (Hinrich, Duthon 8), L.A. Cilppers 9-6 (Simmons 12), Assists—Chicago 19 (Hinrich, Duthon 8), L.A. Cilppers 9-6 (Simmons 12), Assists—Chicago 19 (Hinrich, Duthon 8), L.A. Cilppers 9-6 (Simmons 12), Assists—Chicago 19 (Hinrich, Duthon 8), L.A. Cilppers 9-6 (Simmons 12), Assists—Chicago 19 (Hinrich, Duthon 8), L.A. Cilppers 9-6 (Simmons 12), Assists—Chicago 19 (Hinrich, Duthon 8), L.A. Cilppers 9-6 (Simmons 12), Assists—Chicago 19 (Hinrich, Duthon 8), L.A. Cilppers 9-6 (Simmons 12), Assists—Chicago 19 (Hinrich, Duthon 8), L.A. Cilppers 9-6 (Simmons 12), Assists—Chicago 19 (Hinrich, Duthon 8), L.A. Cilppers 9-6 (Simmons 12), Assists—Chicago 19 (Hinrich, Duthon 8), L.A. Cilppers 9-6 (Simmons 12), Assists—Chicago 19 (Hinrich, Duthon 8), L.A. Cilppers 9-6 (Simmons 12), Assists—Chicago 19 (Hinrich, Duthon 8), L.A. Cilppers 9-6 (Simmons 12), Assists—Chicago 19 (Hinrich, Duthon 8), L.A. Cilppers 9-6 (Simmons 12), Assists—Chicago 19 (Hinrich, Duthon 8), L.A. Cilppers 9-6 (Simmons 12), Assists—Chicago 19 (Hinrich, Duthon 8), L.A. Cilppers 9-6 (Simmons 12), Assists—Chicago 19 (Hinrich, Duthon 8), Assists—Chicago 19 (Hinrich, Duthon 8), Assists—Chicago 19 (Hinrich, Duthon 8), Assists

Pistons 64. Jazz 62

UTAH — Harpring 5-14 0-0 10, Kirilenko 11-19 4-4 27, Borchardt 0-2 0-0 0, Bell 3-9 0-0 6, McLeod 0-6 4-5 4, Okur 2-9 3-4 7, Humphries 2-4 0-2 4, Eisley 1-6 2-2 4, Giricek 0-5 0-0 0. To-tals 24-74 13-17 62. tals 24-74 13-17 62.

DETROIT — Prince 2-9 2-2 6, R.Wallace 4-13 1-1 10, B.Wallace 3-6 0-0 6, Hamilton 6-18 3-5 15, Billups 4-11 4-5 12, Arroyo 0-4 3-4 3.

McDyess 3-9 4-4 10, Hunter 1-3 0-0 2, Dupree 0-0.0-0. Totals 23-73 17-21 64. Utah 14: 15: 21: 12-62 Detroit 19: 19: 20: 6-64 Three-point Goals-Utah 1-7 (Kirlienko 1-2, Bello 1-1, Giricek 0-2, McLeod 0-2), Detroit 1-18 (RWallace 1-5, Arroyo 0-1, Prince 0-2, Hunter 0-2, Billups 0-4, Hamilton 0-41. Foolad na. Detroit

14 15 21 12-62

Detroit

19 20 6-64

Three-boint Goals—Utah 1-7 (Kirlienko 1-2, Bello 1, Giricek 0-2, McLeod 0-2), Petroit 1-18

(R. Wallace 1-5, Arroyo 0-1, Prince 2-7, Hunter 0-2, Billusp 0-4, Hamilton 0-4), Fouled Out
Cy. Billusp 0-4, Hamilton 0-4), Fouled Out
Cy. Billusp 0-4, Hamilton 0-4), Fouled Out
Review 1-1, Fouled 1-1, Assists—Utah 1-1, Full 1-1, Fu

Nets 98, Magic 82

NEW JERSEY — Carter 10-19 12-16 33, Col-ns 1-5 2-2 4. Krstic 2-8 5-8 9, Vaughn 11-17

eattile 0-1, Kasún 0-1), Fouled Out-None, bounds—New Jersey 49 (Kidd 10), Orlande (Howard 8), Assists—New Jersey 19 (K 10), Orlando 21 (Francis 10), Tr (Cals—Krstlc, Francis, Howard, Ejected—Fr (S. A.—14,007, (17,248)).

Celtics 105, Wizards 101

WASHINGTON — Jeffries 3-7 7-9 13, Jamison 6-13 2-2 14, Haywood 3-7 1-4 7, Arenas 7-22 10-13 25, Hughes 11-20 3-6 26, K.Brown 1-4 0-0 2, Thomas 2-2 1-2 5, Blake 2-5 3-5 9, Profit 0-1 0-0 0, Ruffin 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 35-81

Profit D. 10-0 0, Rumin 19-0 vs. v. tunnas 3-20. 18957004 — Awalker 5:12, 12:11, Fierce 7:185720 (Awalker 5:12, 12:11, Fierce 7:185.23 (LaFrentz 8:146-01:18, West 0:40-0 0.00 (Awalker 5:12, 12:18) (Awalker 5:12, 12:18) (Awalker 5:18) (Awalker 5:1 Alfen 1-1, Davis 1-4, Banks 0-1, A.Walker 0-1, West 0-2, Payton 0-2), Fouled Out – None. Re-bounds – Washington 61 (Jeffries 16), Boston 57 (A.Walker 12), Assists – Washington 13 (Arenas 6), Boston 25 (Davis 6), Total Fouls – Washington 18, Boston 29, Technicals – Jami-son, Pierce. A – 17,190, (18,624).

Raptors 128, 76ers 110

Maptors L28, / bers 110
PHILADE.PHA — Knorer 5-11-11.5 Webber 9-19-5-10. Household — Knorer 5-11-15. Webber 9-19-5-10. Household — Knorer 5-13-2-0.0 Hausehold — Knorer 5-13-2-0.0 Ha 4/-95 13-13 120. Philadelphia 31 29 17 33-110 Toronto 38 35 36 29-128 Three-Point Goals-Philadelphia 10-25 (Korver 4-7, Iverson 3-7, McKie 1-2, Webber 1-2, Rogers 1-3, Iguodala 0-1, Davis 0-1, Green 31 29 17 33-110 28 35 36 29-128

0-2), Toronto 21-34 (Marshall 12-19, Peterson 4-6, Alston 2-3, Rose 2-4, Bonner 1-2), Fould 0ut – None. Rebounds-Philadelphia 46 (Jackson 8), Toronto 50 (Bosh, Marshall 10), Assists-Philadelphia 30 (Iverson 8), Toron-to 22 (Peterson 8). Total Fouls-Philadelphia 13, Toronto 11. A —19,800. (19,800).

SuperSonics 90, Knicks 80

Super Suffice 3, 14 (4.8) (1.8

New York
Three-Point Goals—Seattle 7-23 (Levis 3-7.
Allen 2-8, Ridnour 1-1, Radmanovic 1-4,
RMurray 0-1, Danlels 0-2), New York 6-21
(T.Thomas 4-8, Marbury 2-5, Hardaway 0-2,
Crawford 0-6), Fouled Out-Fortson. Re-bounds—Seattle 55 (Evans 16), New York 47
(K.Thomas 9), Assists—Seattle 16 (Danlels (N. Horidas 9). Assists—Seattle 16 (Dames 7), New York 14 (Marbury 5). Total Fouls—Se attle 22, New York 25. Technicals—Seattle De fensive: Three Second, Fortson, T.Thomas A—19,763. (19,763).

Cavaliers 98, Pacers 86

1-5, Pavlovic 0.1, McInnis 0-31, Foulded 1-9 (James 1-0-1, McInnis 0-31, Foulded 1-1-1, McInnis 0-31, Foulded 1-1-1, McInnis 0-31, Foulded 1-1-1, Foundation 1-1-1, Foundation

Suns 106, Nuggets 101

PHOENIX — Richardson 3-9 4-6 11, Marion 8-20 2-2 19, Stoudemire 5-12 3-5 13, J.Johnson 9-17 5-6 23, Nash 10-14 4-5 25, Hunter 3-4 1-4

Total Fours—Proenix 17, Deriver 22, cals—Richardson, McCarty, Denver sive Three Second. A—19,566. (18,227)

Iditarod leader Sorlie pulls into Unalakleet

The Associated Press

UNALAKLEET, Alaska - Norwegian Robert Sorlie was the first musher to reach this town on Alaska's Norton Sound coast, but he was nowhere near comfortable with his lead entering the final leg of the 1,100-mile Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race.

"It's still a long way to Nome," the 47-year-old firefighter from Hurdal said after pulling in to the checkpoint, which marks the start of a 260-mile loop along the wind-scrubbed coast to the finish

Sorlie said he was worried about the whereabouts of his nearest competitors: veterans Ramy Brooks, runner-up to Sorlie in th 2003 race, and four-time champion Martin Buser. Brooks left the earlier checknoint at Kaltag at 9:42 a.m. Sunday, only an hour after Sorlie, for the 90-mile run to Unalakleet, followed by Buser 70 minutes later

Tennessee, UMass, Tulane fire men's basketball coaches

Tennessee's Buzz Peterson and Massachusetts' Steve Lappas were fired after failing to get

Sports briefs

their teams into the NCAA men's tournament during four years at their schools. Peterson's dismissal was an-

nounced Monday in a statement by Tennessee athletic director Mike Hamilton. The secretaries in the basketball office said Monday they were told to clean out the desks of Peterson and his The Vols finished 14-17 overall

and 6-10 in the Southeastern Conference this season after losing to Kentucky in the second round of the league tournament. It was Peterson's second losing season in Knovville leaving him with a 61-59 record in his four years.

Lappas, hired in 2001 to turn around Massachusetts' faltering program, was fired Monday after the Minutemen finished 16-12 the first winning season under Lannas, who compiled a 50-65 record in four years.

"This isn't a real positive day, but one we felt was necessary athletic director John McCutcheon said in announcing the deci-

UMass was eliminated in over time by LaSalle during the first-round of the Atlantic 10 tournament last week and failed to get an NIT bid.

With pressure mounting, UMass restructured Lappas' contract last year to add incentives based on attendance and the team's record.

A postseason bid would have given Lappas a bonus amounting to two years of his \$185,000 annual base pay. But the school also in-cluded a clause allowing it to buy him out for half his annual salary.

Tulane also fired its coach. Shawn Finney, after five seasons. Finney was 60-86 with the Green Wave, including 10-18 this season. He had one winning season and failed to take Tulane to postseason play.

Gooden arrested, charged after domestic complaint

TAMPA. Fla. — Dwight Gooden was arrested early Sunday for allegedly punching his ex-wife in the face, police said.

The former All-Star pitcher was charged with domestic vio-

lence battery and was being held Sunday without bond at Hillsborough County Jail. It wasn't immediately known if he had an attornev.

Jail officials said Gooden, a spe cial assistant for the New York Vankees was scheduled to make his first court appearance on Monday morning.

He was arrested by Tampa police at 12:44 a.m., according to jail records. Tampa police spokeswoman Laura McElrov said the dispute occurred at the home Mo-

nique Moore Gooden's ex-wife Yankees spokesman Rick Cerrone said the team had no comment

Patriots sign WR Dwight

FOXBORO, Mass. - The New England Patriots signed free agent receiver/returner Tim Dwight to a one-year contract on Sunday.

Dwight played last season with the San Diego Chargers when he had just two receptions for 31 yards while battling toe and hamstring injuries. He also returned 50 kickoffs for a 24.4-yard average and one touchdown on an 87-vard return against the New Vork Jets

Johnson outruns Busch brothers in Vegas Harrington

Hendrick driver stops Roush run with UAW-DaimlerChrysler 400 win

CUP SERIES

BY JENNA FRYER

LAS VEGAS — Three races this season, three battles between Hendrick Motorsports and Roush Racing

Give Hendrick the edge, two victories to one, after Jimmie Johnson stopped the Roush stranglehold at Las Vegas Motor Speedway by winning the UAW-DaimlerChrysler 400 on Sunday.

Sunday.

But Roush came out a little cleaner after Johnson and runner-up Kyle Busch, another Hendrick driver, both failed post-race inspection. The roof on Johnson's Chevrolet was too low, and the rear quarter panel on Busch's car was too high.

There were no immediate penalties announced, but NASCAR could elect to dock points from both drivers. Doing so would cost Johnson the 15-point lead he has over reigning Nextel Cup champion Kurt Busch.

But Johnson isn's points racing, yet, focusing instead on spending the \$30,000 bonus he earned for taking over the points lead.

"I can have a little fun at the blackjack table," Johnson said. "But I'm not concerned about the points lead yet."

Johnson, who won for the 15th time in his career, has victories in five of the last nine races, dating to last season. He hasn't finished worse than sixth since October, and this victory put him right back where he spent most of last season — on top of the points. This latest victory helped Hendrick Motorsports claim a piece

of the track in the desert
that Roush Racing
has dominated
with five victories
in the first seven

races.

But with

Johnson and Hen-

drick teammates Kyle Busch finishing second and Jeff Gordon fourth, the Roush dominance is over. Kurt Busch carried the Roush flag

with a third-place finish.

Hendrick now has two wins
this season—Gordon won the season-opener at Daytona — and
Roush has one with Greg Biffle
winning at California.

"It's going to be a fun battle all the way to the end," Kurt Busch said. "You could say that Hendrick and Roush definitely have a distinct advantage over the other

Johnson's win also ruined what could have been a banner day for the Busch brothers, Las Vegas natives

As Johnson was driving his Chevrolet to Victory Lane, Kyle was treasuring his second-place finish.

"This is as good as a win as far as I'm concerned," he yelled to his crew.

"I had a bunch of guys put money on me, so it would have been cool to have Jimmie pull over and let us win," said Kyle, who went off at 60-1 before the race. "But, hey, next year I'll probably have a lot lower odds."

Harringtor earns first victory on PGA Tour

The Associated Press

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla. — As Padraig Harrington mounted a charge in the Honda Classic, birdies came so easily he began thinking about shooting 59. He settled for his first PGA

Tour title instead.

Harrington won when Vijay Singh missed a 2½-foot putt to bogey the second playoff hole Sunday.

Ranked eighth in the world, the Dublin native is believed to be the first Golf roundup

player from the Republic of Ireland to win a tour event.

He figured his countrymen

He figured his countrymen watched on TV. "I'm sure I kept a few pubs

open tonight," Harrington said.

"It's very good to be the first Irishman. We have produced a lot of competitive players."

An assistant to Irish President Mary McAleese phoned with congratulations. Harrington caught a break with Singh's miss, but he earned the title by shooting a 9-under-par 63 in the final round.

Down seven shots when the day began, Harrington birdied 10 of the first 13 holes and briefly took sole possession of the lead. "I had not looked at a leader

board," he said. "I was just thinking about shooting 59. ... I'm thinking, Tm 10 under. It's there. How much more work do you have to do?"

When consecutive bogeys ended his bid to the the PGA Tour record, Harrington began to focus on winning the tournament. He was in a four-way tie for the lead when he finished nearly 90 minutes ahead of the last group, and earned a playoff with Singh and Joe Ogilvie when all three finished at 14-under 274.

The par-4 No. 18 was used for both playoff holes, and Harrington scrambled to get up-and-down for par each time. Oglivie was eliminated when he bogeyed the first extra hole, and Singh uncharacteristically failed on the verge of victory.

on the verge of victory.

He missed a 15-foot birdie try
on the first playoff hole that
would have given him the win.
After Harrington made a 4-foot
putt to par the second extra hole,
Singh pushed his par try and the
ball rimmed out.

"I thought it was a gimme," Harrington said. "If I had done it, I would be distraught, but thankfully Vijay has won enough that he shouldn't let it get to him."

Smyth wins SBC Classic

SANTA CLARITA, Calif. — Ireland's Des Smyth won his first Champions Tour title, closing with a 4-under 68 for a one-stroke victory over D.A. Weibring and Mark McNulty in the SBC Classic.

Smyth finished with a 5-under 211 total on the Valencia Country Club course. McNulty shot a 74, and Weibring had a 72.











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SPORTS



Seeds of contention









AP PHOTOS

Top: Illinois' Deron Williams directs his teammates during the championship game of the Big Ten tournament Sunday. Illinois got the top seed in the Chicago region. Above left: Oklahom State's Terrence Crawford celebrates the Cowboys' Big 12 Tournament victory. The Big 12 got six NCAA berths. Center: Florida's Matt Walsh reacts near the end of a 70-53 rout of Kentucky in the SEC Tournament championship. Above right: Duke's Shavlik Randolph and the Blue Devils earned a No. 1 seed by beating Georgia Tech in the ACC tournament final.

Late upsets help throw NCAA tournament selections into chaos

BY MICHAEL MAROT The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — The NCAA selection committee expected to struggle in seeding this year's 65-team tourna-

ment field. Every weekend upset made the task even more daunting.

With a record number of schools topping 20 wins, a rash of surprise finishes and a continually changing picture, within the davided energit. Not support

of surprise finishes and a continually changing picture, nothing was decided easily. Not even choosing the top four seeds — Illinois, North Carolina, Duke and Washington. The 10 committee members debated into the final hour Sunday about how the brackets should look, and finally set-

tled on making Washington a No. 1 seed.
"You want to make sure you get it right on Line 1 but you also want to get it right on Lines 2, 3 and 4," selection committee chairman Bob Bowlsby said. "If you don't, then the fairness of the tournament is then really called into question."

Bowlsby's fifth year on the committee might have been his toughest.

He acknowledged teams such as Kansas and Gonzaga

Illinois gets closest thing to home-court thing to home-court advantage, Page 27

Formidable foursome top Syracuse regional, Page 26

Austin sets up
Duke, Kentucky final, Page 25

may have deserved better than a No. 3 seed. Others, like Maryland and Buffalo, maybe could complain they should have been included.

Then there was Bowlsby's own school — he is the athletic director at Iowa — which leapfrogged Indiana into the

tournament even though the Hoosiers won three more Big Ten games.

And yet it was the late-game results that created the most chaos.

"It was a big headache," Bowlsby said. "We had about

five or six different scenarios that involved about four teams and a lot of them were either-or type situations." The top three seeds — Illinois (32-1) in the Chicago region, North Carolina (27-4) in Syracuse, N.Y., and Duke

gion, North Carolina (27-4) in Syracuse, N.Y., and Duke (25-5) in Austin, Texas — were no surprise. The Illini won the Big Ten regular season and then the

The Illini won the Big Ten regular season and then the tournament title and were ranked No. 1 most of the season. The Tar Heels and Blue Devils split the regular-season and tournament titles in the Atlantic Coast Conference, which had the nation's highest conference RPI.

But Washington (27-S), which ranked No. 14 last week, took the No. 1 seed in Albuquerque. Many thought that spot could have gone to a third ACC school, Wake Forest; Southeastern Conference regular-season champ Kenteky (25-S); or sixth-ranked Louisville (29-4), which won

SEE NCAA ON PAGE 28

No. 1 Stanford doesn't get top seed in women's tournament Page 29